

De Maiziere renews coalition offer

EAST BERLIN (AP) — Lothar de Maiziere, East Germany's likely new premier, Saturday reiterated his offer to form a coalition with Social Democrats and said monetary union with West Germany will occur by summer. In an interview with West Germany's newspaper Welt am Sonntag, de Maiziere also said the country would elect a president. Meanwhile, the West German newspaper Der Spiegel reported Saturday that two former secret service agents have accused the chairman of East Germany's Social Democratic Party, Erich Honecker, of being a former collaborator with the hated secret police. De Maiziere also has been accused of having links to the now-disbanded Stasi. The magazine quoted both politicians as denying the allegations, and said there was no proof of the allegations other than the claims by former agents. Der Spiegel also released an early transcript of comments by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in which he said a united Germany should put the past behind itself and live in peace with Poland, which would be its eastern neighbour.

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Cliffhanger poll results in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke's Labour Party hung on to power as a caretaker government Sunday after one of the closest elections in Australia's history failed to produce an immediate result. When the counting of votes from Saturday's election closed, at least six seats were still to be decided by postal and preferential votes. Counting will resume Monday but politicians and analysts said it could be the middle of the week before the final outcome was decided under Australia's complex voting system. Hawke said Labour would win at least one of the six undecided marginal seats — enough to give Labour a majority over the conservatives, but said he could not yet claim outright victory. "It is obvious to me that I should continue in a caretaker capacity until those results are finalised," said Hawke, who has been in power for the past seven years. I believe that when the vote is finalised that I will, on behalf of the Australian Labour party, again be in a position to form a government, the fourth Hawke Labour government," he told reporters soon after midnight.

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Ministry warns against illegal gatherings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Interior Saturday appealed members of the public, organisations, clubs and the press to abide by the rules and laws concerning the holding of meetings and warned that violators of the law would be prosecuted. The statement said that it had been noticed recently that several public meetings were organised by individuals, organisations and clubs without consideration of the law. It said all such meetings without proper authorisation according to law are regarded as illegal.

Kuwait says CAEU failed

KUWAIT (R) — Finance Minister Jassim Mohammad Al Khori said Saturday Kuwait was pulling out of the Council for Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) because it had failed to achieve its goals. In a statement carried by the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), he said the 13-member council had turned down several Kuwaiti proposals "to put it on the right track." He said Kuwait decided to quit because none of its warnings was heeded and because of "our complete belief that our presence in (the council) does not achieve any positive results."

Communist leader killed in Kashmir

Srinagar (R) — Kashmiri separatists stepped up their war against Indian rule, killing a senior leader of the Communist Party of India and a top policeman and kidnapping a politician, police said Saturday. Police said the Jammu and Kashmir Students Liberation Front claimed responsibility for killing Communist leader Abdus Sattar Ranjor Friday night and police Deputy Superintendent Gulam Hassan Tabassum Saturday. Kashmir Television said militants threatened to kill politician Mir Ghulam Mustafa unless 10 separatist colleagues were released from prison within 36 hours.

Unknown group threatens Bonn

BEIRUT (AP) — A previously unknown group Saturday warned West Germany it would not keep silent over what it termed psychological torture of two convicted Lebanese nationals. The statement by the Organisation for the Defence of the Struggles and imprisoned accused German authorities of practising lately the strongest kinds of "psychological torture and using isolation techniques." It said the authorities used "huge moral pressure against our Mujahideen that reached their apogee... by banning (them) from practising their religious rites and carrying out their religious duties." The statement named the two as Mohammad Ali Hamadi and his brother Abbas, who are serving prison sentences in West Germany for sabotage and extremism.

Honecker homeless

EAST BERLIN (R) — Disgraced former East German leader Erich Honecker Saturday left his past home where he has been for the last two months only to be forced out of his new home by street protests. The head of the government guest house north of Berlin where Honecker and his wife were due to move said a citizens' committee had decided to refuse the couple hospitality.

Romania, Hungary swap charges

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania and Hungary swapped charges Saturday over ethnic clashes which killed three people in Romania's Transylvania province as week. "There is still a state of tension, suspicion and mistrust on both sides," Romanian President Ion Iliescu told reporters. Hungary's ambassador in Bucharest, Klaus Sten, met Prime Minister Imre Nagy and disputed a Romanian statement accusing Hungary of inciting the clashes, a Hungarian diplomat said. Sten described the Romanian statement as "manipulative."

Parliament lambasts U.S. Senate resolution on Jerusalem's status

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, the chairman of the House's Foreign Affairs Committee, and other deputies Saturday lambasted a resolution adopted by the U.S. Senate acknowledging occupied Jerusalem as the "capital of Israel," and promised prompt action against the measure.

House Speaker Suleiman Arar attacked the Senate's decision, which came late Thursday, saying "it is a link in the chain of conspiracies against the Arab and Palestinian rights." The resolution, he said, "offers more proof that the U.S. Senate is controlled by the Zionist lobby."

The concurrent resolution adopted by the U.S. Senate "acknowledges that Jerusalem is and should remain the capital of the state of Israel," in a dramatic conflict with official American policy, which considered the Holy City as occupied territory. The resolution, which was introduced by Senator Patrick Moynihan (Democrat of New York) and co-sponsored by Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (Republican of Minnesota) and 82 other members of the Senate, is not binding on the U.S. administration. It now goes before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives. After presenting and securing endorsement

ment of the resolution, Moynihan contended that its "swift passage... sends a message of reassurances to Israel, which is essential to making progress towards peace."

Speaker Arar described the resolution as a "new blow to Arab rights and a contradiction of all

U.N. Security Council resolutions on Jerusalem."

The speaker said that the resolution came as no surprise to him and he expected the Lower House to take action on it soon. "The fact that the Arab World

(Continued on page 3)

Following is the text of the resolution (No: 106) adopted by the U.S. Senate Thursday:

Whereas the state of Israel has declared Jerusalem to be its capital;

Whereas from 1948 to 1967 Jerusalem was a divided city and Israeli citizens of all faiths were not permitted access to holy sites in the area controlled by Jordan;

Whereas since 1967 Jerusalem has been a united city administered by Israel and persons of all religions have been guaranteed full access to holy sites within the city;

Whereas the president and the secretary of state have demonstrated their strong desire to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and have worked diligently toward that end;

Whereas ambiguous statements by the government of the United States concerning the right of Jews to live in all parts of Jerusalem raise concerns in Israel that Jerusalem might one day be redivided and access to religious sites in Jerusalem denied to Israeli citizens;

Whereas such concerns inhibit and complicate the search for a lasting peace in the region; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

That the Congress

1) acknowledges that Jerusalem is and should remain the capital of the state of Israel;

2) strongly believes that Jerusalem must remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected; and

3) calls upon all parties involved in the search for peace to maintain their strong efforts to bring about negotiations between Israel and Palestinian representatives.

2 W. Bank boys injured in blast; violent protests continue

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Two Palestinian boys were wounded in the face, hands and legs in the village of Tekoa near Bethlehem in the West Bank when an unidentified object exploded near them, Palestinian hospital officials said Saturday.

The boys, 11 and 14 years old, were taken to hospital in Jerusalem after the overnight explosion, the sources said. The army said it was checking the report. Last year there were several incidents in which Palestinian children in the West Bank were killed or injured when they apparently came upon unexploded army flares and other explosives.

Soldiers shot and wounded a 10-year-old boy in the leg in Bethlehem overnight when they clashed with stone-throwing demonstrators, Palestinian sources said. The boy was a bystander during the clash, they said. The army was checking the report.

Masked men conducted raids on shops in Bethlehem Saturday morning, ordering shopkeepers not to sell Israeli products, Palestinian sources said.

In the Sabra neighbourhood of

nian sources said. Troops closed Yabad Secondary School for boys Saturday, Palestinian residents said. The school's 650 students and 25 teachers were told the school was closed because of hostile activities against Israeli forces by the students.

In Jenin near Nablus troops fired tear-gas at high school students protesting the killing of two uprising activists by troops in Nablus last week, Palestinian sources said. Five students were arrested.

In the occupied Gaza Strip Palestinian demonstrators clashed with Israeli troops for three hours in the heart of Gaza City's commercial district.

Demonstrators carried the Palestinian flag, burned tyres, and threw stones at troops who fired live bullets to disperse the crowd, Palestinian sources said.

Soldiers forced shopkeepers to close their stores in the district and declared it a closed military zone for one hour, the sources said.

In the Sabra neighbourhood of

Gaza a curfew was imposed, the sources said, during which residents were forced by soldiers to clear roadblocks and paint over Islamic and nationalist slogans.

Two Israeli peace groups visited the West Bank Saturday, Palestinian sources said. The Association in Defence of Children under Occupation distributed 2,000 textbooks in the villages of Jenin and Kabatiyeh, they said.

The association issued a communiqué denouncing the closure of Palestinian schools in the occupied territories by Israeli authorities.

A group of Israeli Jewish and Arab doctors and nurses visited Kabatiyeh and provided a day of free medical care, the sources said.

Peace activists turned back

Israeli soldiers turned back a group of Jewish peace activists trying to enter a West Bank village Saturday to visit the family of an Arab farmer jailed over a land dispute with settlers.

Mubarak, Assad meet in Libya, call for Arab unity

ROME (Agencies) — Presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Hafez Al Assad of Syria met Saturday for the first time since ending a 12-year rift between their countries, joining other Arab leaders in Libya, a news report said.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi welcomed Assad, Mubarak and Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir at a ceremony in Tobruk, on Libya's Mediterranean coast, marking the 20th anniversary of the expulsion of British forces from Libya.

The Libyan news agency JANA, monitored in Rome, called the meeting a display of Arab unity and said Qadhafi expressed "a feeling of happiness, delight and pride in our brothers."

JANA quoted Mubarak as saying the Arab Nation needs unity to be able to withstand the challenges of U.S. and European economic blocs.

It quoted Assad as telling reporters that "without unity, I believe there will be no happy life for Arabs."

In Cairo, Egyptian officials said Mubarak would have talks with Qadhafi on international and Arab issues and recently improved relations between the two countries.

Mubarak and Qadhafi began exchanging visits last October, and Mubarak's current visit is their fifth meeting since.

The 1970 British pullout from Tobruk's Al Adem air base took place the year after Qadhafi overthrew the monarchy in a military coup and established a republic.

Qadhafi renamed the base after Egypt's late president, Gamal Abdul Nasser.

The three Arab leaders are the first high-level visitors to Libya since Washington earlier this month revived allegations that Libya was producing chemical weapons at the Rabta factory, 80 kilometres southwest of Tripoli.

A mysterious fire broke out at the plant on March 14 but it is not clear how much damage it did or who was responsible.

Libya has said the plant is to produce medicines and that the

fire was an act of sabotage, perhaps by U.S., Israeli or West German agents. Libyan dissidents abroad, however, say Libya staged a limited fire to avert a possible U.S. attack.

The presence of the three Arab leaders in Libya underlines the rapprochement which have taken place in the Arab World since an Arab summit in Casablanca last May.

For 10 years Libya and Syria were the bastions of a front virulently opposed to Egypt's 1979 treaty with Israel.

But Assad restored relations with Egypt earlier this year.

Libya remains the only Arab country without an embassy in Cairo but this has not prevented regular meetings between Qadhafi and Mubarak, who is now on his third visit to Libya.

General Bashir is also a regular visitor and after his last trip he announced that Libya and Sudan would sign agreements to pave the way for a merger within four years.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran and several members of the Cabinet attend a meeting Saturday with officials and residents of Karak (Petra photo)

Badran listens to demands of Karak, promises action

AMMAN (J.T.) — The citizens of Karak, one of three southern areas hard hit by drought, Saturday presented demands to the prime minister for improving their living conditions and ways to deal with their present hardships.

In presenting the demands at a general meeting held upon the prime minister's arrival in Karak at the start of a three-day tour in the south, Governor Ismail Duheiman and Mayor Abdullah Dmour said there was need for government action to stem unemployment, improve health and agricultural sectors and enable local citizens to deal with soaring prices of basic food supplies.

Airng their region's views in separate speeches, both the governor and the mayor called on the government to reschedule loan repayments of farmers in 1990 and 1991 and to exempt farmers from paying interest on the loans and make further allocations for road construction schemes in their region. They also demanded that the government launch housing projects for limited income groups, and to reduce the charges for electricity and water consumption. They also urged the concerned authorities to give due attention to youth and sports activities.

Among the most important demands were those for additional arable lands and pasture lands for livestock. Prime Minister Mudar Badran, who was accompanied by several Cabinet members, told his audience that the meeting was designed to identify the pressing problems and to come up with practical resolutions.

The government is doing all it

can to minimise problems and enable the citizens to maintain the process of construction, the prime minister said.

Work on constructing the new Karak hospital, a project which will be built through assistance from the Italian government will begin this year, the prime minister announced. He said that all arable lands in the area would be reopened and tanker trucks would be used to carry water supplies to remote areas. Concerned authorities will embark on constructing earth dams and \$1 million that has been originally earmarked for the development of high lands will now be used for agricultural projects in the southern regions, the prime minister said.

He said instructions had been issued for doubling the amounts of fodder which will be distributed fairly, and considered as soft long-term loans to be paid by the beneficiaries. All difficulties can be dealt with through national cohesion and close cooperation, Badran said.

Apart from the present economic difficulties, he said, the Kingdom is being confronted by a new challenge represented in the immigration of Jews to occupied Palestine, a new colonial onslaught on the Arab region which His Majesty King Hussein described as a third disaster for the Arabs, Badran said.

The prime minister said the "secret of success over all challenges lies in national unity and close cooperation between people and government in all fields." Among those addressing the meeting were the ministers of social development, health and

municipal and rural affairs and the environment.

Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh said that a general survey was being conducted in the Karak region to determine the volume of needy families which will later benefit from the National Aid Fund's services.

Minister of Health Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben said that apart from the Karak hospital several health centres would be set up, with the Mazar centre to be transformed into a training unit for new doctors and to be provided with specialists.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi told the meeting that special arrangements would be made for the repayment of loans to local councils over extended periods.

After the meeting in Karak, the prime minister called at Ghor Safi district within the governorate where he discussed agricultural problems and announced that a special committee will be set up to study all requests for the redistribution of agricultural lands in the region.

The prime minister and accompanying ministers heard representatives of the local people presenting requests, mainly concentrating on the agricultural sector.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the prime minister called at one of the local schools and donated JD 1,000 from his own funds to be distributed among poor students, and ordered that necessary maintenance work be immediately carried out at the school.

Soviets, Israel said planning sea link

NICOSIA (AP) — Soviet and Israeli officials have been visiting Cyprus and Greece to discuss setting up a maritime line to bring Soviet Jews to Israel, the London-based Al Hayat newspaper has reported.

The Arabic-language daily, in its Friday edition which reached Cyprus Saturday, quoted unnamed informed Greek and Arab sources as saying the officials were discussing sailing Greek and Cyprus-registered ships between the Black Sea port of Odessa and the Israeli port of Haifa.

Officials in Cyprus and Greece could not be reached for comment Saturday, which was first day of a holiday weekend in both countries on the occasion of Greek independence day.

Hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews are expected to emigrate to Israel in the next few years as the result of relaxed rules in the Soviet Union and tighter entry quotas in the United States.

The newspaper said the Soviets and Israelis hoped that a sea link could ease pressure on air flights, especially those of the overtaxed state-run Aeroflot.

The Soviet airline does not run direct flights to Israel. Instead, migrants must change at one of several transit points, of which

Vienna is the most used.

Th London-based, Lebanese-owned Al Hayat said the Soviet and Israeli officials were planning to use Soviet nationals to crew Greek-flagged liners sailing between the Soviet Union and Israel. The newspaper said the officials hoped this would help avoid an Arab reaction against Greece.

In addition, Cyprus and the Soviet Union have recently concluded two shipping agreements.

Under the first agreement, Soviet seamen are allowed to crew Cypriot vessels, under the second, the Soviet Union actually re-flagged more than a dozen

vessels in Cyprus.

Soviet officials at the time said the action was taken for purely commercial reasons, including access to Western services and Western credit.

Al Hayat said intelligence officials from both the Soviet Union and Israel made trips to the area ports to inspect security arrangements.

A Lebanese group holding Western hostages has threatened to attack airports and airlines involved in transporting Soviet Jews to Israel. Security already has been tightened at Larnaca airport in Cyprus, officials said earlier this month.

Tension remains high in Lithuania

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet tanks rolled through Vilnius overnight and Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, Saturday warned young men refusing to serve in the Soviet army they may have to seek sanctuary in churches.

"We feel we are in an occupied country. A foreign army arrives and we do not know what it will do," Landsbergis told the supreme council several hours after 100 military vehicles passed on their way through the capital of the rebel republic.

Landsbergis' warning came amid signs of an escalation of what he described as a "war of nerves" waged by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev against

Lithuania since it reasserted its pre-war independence March 11.

"We cannot physically defend each man who is hiding some place and thinks he is safe," Landsbergis added. "It could be that his place of hiding is known and he could be taken away today or tomorrow."

"Those boys who have decided not to return and finish their military service should not stay with close ones, their addresses might be known. In case of danger they should stay close to churches."

Landsbergis also revealed to parliament the contents of a telegram he said he sent to Gorbachev overnight accusing the Soviet leadership of "artificially

blowing up tension in Lithuania."

The message said troops and other officials had been sent to the Baltic republic without consultation with Lithuanian authorities and that there had been cases of kidnapping — a reference to alleged seizure of deserters by Soviet army officers.

"Such actions of the USSR could be qualified as a continuation of aggression against Lithuania of 1940," — the year Lithuania was annexed by the Soviet Union — Landsbergis told Gorbachev.

Many young Lithuanians conscripts have refused to sign up in the army or have deserted on grounds that it is an army of occupation, but under a military

Judiciary says no names of corruption 'suspects' received

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The prosecutor-general Saturday denied reports that the Lower House of Parliament had forwarded to him names of suspects in cases of corruption which were referred to him last week.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Prosecutor-General Mohammad Smadi said the House had referred to him a "collection of filed documents providing initial information on corruption cases for investigation."

Smadi said he had no knowledge of any names of suspects in corruption cases of any measures taken against them.

He said he needed some time to study the files referred to him by the Lower House "in order to grasp the various aspects of these cases."

The prosecutor-general also referred to the role of the press in the affair and said while his office recognises the "positive role of the press under these circumstances, it also appeals to the media to allow sufficient time for a full study on the cases in question before further action can be taken."

Smadi was apparently referring to reports in the local press that several people allegedly suspected of involvement in corruption were banned from leaving the country in the past few days. Some reports suggested that a total of 27 people were implicated in the nine cases of corruption referred to the prosecutor-general by the Lower House, which held a closed session Tuesday and debated the issue of corruption and financial mismanagement.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran, according to sources, was requested by lower house members during Tuesday's closed session to issue orders banning some of the people involved in the cases, but the prime minister pointed out that it was beyond his authority to do so since martial law provisions have been frozen in the country since January. Any such ban order should come after the due process of the law, he told the deputies, according to the sources.

order issued this week they had to turn themselves in by Saturday

Newly-appointed Lithuanian Interior Minister Marijonas Misikonis has pledged that all conscripts on the run would be offered refuge in two camps in the republic, but warned their safety could not be guaranteed.

"If the (Soviet) army enters them, we cannot offer any force," Misikonis told a news conference late Friday.

Gorbachev has refused to recognise the independence declaration by the Lithuanian parliament and has made use of new presidential powers granted him by the Soviet parliament this month to try to bring the rebel republic back into the fold.

3 killed in Christian fighting amid fears of new all-out war

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival Christian forces battled with howitzers and mortars north of Beirut through the night stirring fears Saturday that it signals a new round of all-out war in a power struggle for mastery of the Christian enclave.

Police said three people were killed and seven wounded in the fighting in Kesrouan province on the eastern flank of the Christian enclave between rebel Gen. Michel Aoun's troops and the Lebanese Forces militia led by Samir Geagea.

The latest fighting raised the casualty toll since Aoun moved against Geagea on Jan. 30 to at least 765 killed and 2,123 wounded, most of them civilians.

Both sides accused each other of provoking the latest clashes, the most serious violation of a repeatedly abused March 3 ceasefire in the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave.

The two armies had fought each other to a standstill before the ceasefire arranged by a three-man committee of neutral Christian mediators.

Fears that a new flare-up was looming have been fuelled by the mediators' failure to work out a political settlement to end the power struggle.

Tens of thousands of the estimated 1 million Christians living in the enclave have fled in recent weeks because of the fighting. It has been the bloodiest confrontation between Christian forces since the civil war erupted in April 1975.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing

regulations, said a large-scale battle "appears to be in the offing, especially if the mediation committee is unable to work out a settlement."

That would mark another serious setback for an Arab League-brokered peace accord aimed at ending the nearly 15-year-old civil war.

Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi, elected on Nov. 24 to implement the peace plan, has not been able to extend his authority in the Christian enclave because Aoun refuses to recognise him and rejects the accord as a betrayal.

A Christian source close to the mediators said, "The gap separating Geagea and Aoun remains very wide. The mediators haven't been able to bring them closer."

The source speaking on condition of anonymity, said the committee was "convinced that its efforts have reached a dead-end, but don't want to announce failure. They're hoping that a miracle of some sort might emerge to prevent a new wave of violence."

Beirut's independent An Nahar daily quoted unnamed government sources as saying the United States has informed "officials that Aoun must step down in favour of the legitimate authority" of Hrawi.

The report did not elaborate.

But the United States, like all countries with which Lebanon maintains diplomatic relations, recognises Hrawi as head of state.

Aoun, 54, considers himself the sole legitimate authority in Lebanon.

In September 1983, Aoun, the army commander, was named head of a caretaker military government by outgoing President Amin Gemayel before his six-year term expired with parliament unable to elect a new head of state.

Hrawi, a Maronite Catholic like Aoun and Geagea, sacked Aoun as army chief and interim Prime Minister in November. But Aoun has refused to quit either post.

He considers Hrawi's election unconstitutional on the grounds that parliament elected in 1972 before the civil war began, is no longer representative of the nation.

Aoun rejects the peace accord endorsed by parliament in the Saudi Arabian resort of Taif in October because it does not guarantee the withdrawal of 40,000 Syrian troops from Lebanon.

He considers the Syrians who entered Lebanon in 1976 under an Arab League peacekeeping mandate to be an army of occupation.

Geagea recognises the presidency and has made cautious signals welcoming the Taif accord.

In a separate development Soviet officials said Saturday that a short circuit was to blame for a

fire at their Beirut embassy, which Lebanese sources said killed a Soviet diplomat and injured three other employees.

The officials declined to give further details of the fire that raged for two hours Friday on the first floor of the embassy in Mar Elias district of mainly Muslim west Beirut.

The blaze broke out a week after a Lebanese militant Muslim group denounced Moscow for allowing mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, which holds three U.S. hostages, threatened to attack "all airports, planes, airlines and offices which help in their transport."

Lebanese security sources said the fire caused serious damage. Civil defence sources said Soviet officials kept them waiting for 30 minutes before allowing them to enter the embassy after the fire broke out. A Soviet diplomat was killed and three staff taken to hospital.

Soviet security men and Syrian troops barred journalists on Saturday from approaching the embassy, which is the biggest in the country.

Syria, which has close ties to Moscow, has 40,000 troops stationed in Lebanon. Civil war has raged in the country for the past 14 years.

Shortly after Friday's fire a bomb planted under a car exploded outside a shop in west Beirut, wounding a girl and destroying several vehicles.

In a separate development Soviet officials said Saturday that a short circuit was to blame for a

Arabs resent immigration of Soviet Jews — Carter aide

ATLANTA (R) — The Arab World's concern about the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel runs much deeper than generally believed in the United States, Jimmy Carter's Middle East adviser has said.

Just back from a trip to the Middle East with the former U.S. president, Kenneth Stein, director of the Middle East programme at the Carter President Centre in Atlanta, said he was surprised at the depth of resentment from Arabs about Jews from the Soviet Union coming to live in Israel.

Stein said officials in Jordan, Egypt and Syria "believe there is a conspiracy — that Moscow is providing the bodies and Washington is providing the money — and that the United States and Soviet Union are doing this intentionally to hurt the Arabs."

"This is a real deep belief that there two countries agreed to this furiously," he said.

Jordanians are "beside themselves because the Jordanians be-

lieve that these Russian Jewish immigrants will settle in the West Bank and Gaza and will drive out the Palestinians," he added.

In that scenario, Palestinians currently living on the West Bank would migrate to the East Bank, inside Jordan, Stein said.

He refused to discuss in detail the meetings Carter had with several Middle East leaders, but he said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad indicated a willingness to be more helpful in the Middle East peace process.

"Assad looks at the peace process as a way of bolstering a new look with Washington," Stein said. The Syrian government will appoint an ambassador to Washington next month he said.

In addition, Assad indicated a willingness to "talk about an accommodation on the Golan Heights" territory seized by Israel.

He said Syrian officials indicated optimism about the possible release of American hostages held in Lebanon.

U.N. chief hopes to speed up W. Sahara settlement

RABAT (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, speaking Saturday before talks with Morocco's King Hassan, said he hoped to speed up a settlement of the 14-year-long conflict in Western Sahara.

Perez de Cuellar said on arrival at Marrakesh Friday he would "personally renew my efforts in the region... It is about time to give new impetus to this affair which has dragged on too long."

Settlement efforts have made scant progress since Rabat and separatist Polisario guerrillas approved in principle a U.N. peace plan in August 1983.

The plan proposed a ceasefire and a referendum to let inhabitants of the sparsely-populated desert area choose either independence or integration with Morocco.

After talks with King Hassan, Perez de Cuellar is due to meet Polisario leaders in neighbouring Algeria.

The United Nations chief said

in his statement that the world was "going through a stage of conciliation and peaceful solutions of problems... Nothing prevents us advancing and obtaining positive and rapid results regarding the (Western) Sahara."

King Hassan met Polisario leaders in January last year but later rejected their demand for direct talks to settle details of a ceasefire and referendum.

After a lull of more than a year, the guerrillas resumed attacks on Moroccan forces in the Western Sahara in October last year. Polisario wants Morocco to withdraw its troops and settlers before the referendum.

Morocco says it controls four-fifths of the territory, with 82,000 troops stationed along 1,500 kilometres of defence lines along the Algerian and Mauritanian borders.

Polisario says there are 200,000 Moroccan troops and numerous settlers in the territory, and that 150,000 Saharan refugees live in camps in Algeria.

Kuwaiti emir urged to delay changing constitution

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's pro-democracy movement issued a statement this week urging the emir not to change the 1962 constitution before parliament was restored.

Western diplomats said Saturday the two sides appeared to be edging towards a fresh clash over the future of parliamentary democracy in the northern Gulf state.

The strongly-worded but carefully drafted statement signed by a group of 31 former deputies

also criticised a political dialogue with the government. Activists said the dialogue had achieved little.

It was sent to the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, last Tuesday and a copy was made available to Reuters.

The former deputies have been pressing since late last year for a return to parliamentary rule.

Sheikh Jaber dissolved the last parliament in 1986 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war, citing a foreign conspiracy to destroy

Kuwait.

The crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, said March 19 that wide consultations with Kuwaitis showed they favoured a return to parliamentary democracy but under rules different from those for the previous assembly.

He did not spell out the proposed new regulations to government what in that past was the liveliest parliament in the Arab World.

The statement from the group

of former deputies stressed the dangers amending the constitution "in the shadow of the enthusiasm which surrounds the region and the thunderous hurricanes sweeping across the world."

"To go ahead with amending or replacing the constitution... will shake whatever stability is left in (our) souls... and open doors which we are not certain are those of goodness for this loyal people and this secure country," the statement added.

Famine deepens in Ethiopia, Sudan

By Reid G. Miller
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A new migration of the damned has begun in the Horn of Africa.

Once again, as so often in the past, drought and war have forced tens of thousands of impoverished men, women and children from their homes in Ethiopia and Sudan in a desperate search for food.

Many will not find it.

As the United Nations and private agencies struggle to begin long-delayed relief operations, more and more people are joining the exodus from war-torn villages and parched farms.

The United Nations says more than 4 million people are at risk of starvation in northern Ethiopia alone. At least half a million more face the same fate in southern Sudan.

Nearly 1 million people perished in Ethiopia's last great famine of 1984-85, when people around the globe bought a record album called We Are the World and the proceeds went to help feed the hungry.

"We could be looking at a repeat of that," said a relief agency official in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital. "If we can't break the logjam soon,

people are going to start dying in numbers."

The official, like so many others involved in ticklish negotiations to move food through both government and insurgent military lines, spoke only on condition of anonymity.

The crisis is getting high-level attention. In Washington, it was revealed recently that Secretary of State James Baker had written Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze about the problem.

Baker sought a joint U.S.-Soviet effort to obtain a ceasefire between the Addis Ababa government and two insurgent armies.

Many aid officials see that as an essential first step in ensuring the free passage of food to the needy in northern Ethiopia and ending the recurrent problem of famine.

Whether coincidentally or not, Ethiopia renewed preliminary talks with one of the rebel groups in Rome Wednesday and said it would meet with the other insurgent group in Nairobi next month.

Meanwhile, a small convoy carrying 110 tons of food was allowed to pass safely through the contested area between a government-held provincial capital and a rebel-controlled town in northern Ethiopia at

midweek.

The first convoy in the overland relief operation, managed by a consortium of Ethiopian church groups and supplied by U.S. and Western European donors, was described as a trial run, but officials were elated.

Still, they acknowledged they would at best be able to reach no more than 1 million people in Tigre and Wollo provinces and, possibly, the extreme southern part of Eritrea — or about a fourth of those in need.

The Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF), with whom the government reopened talks in Rome this week, has controlled all of Tigre and much of neighbouring Wollo and Gondar provinces since late last year.

The United Nations began appealing toward the close of 1983 for 1.1 million tons of food, most of which it hoped to ship to Ethiopia's Red Sea port of Massawa for distribution inland.

But just as the first shipments were arriving in February, the largest of the two insurgent groups, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), broke a nearly year-long, de facto ceasefire and attacked government troops along a 320-kilometre front.

Within three days the rebels claimed the capture of Massawa.

The government, which has never acknowledged Massawa's fall, is reliably reported to have retaliated with aerial and artillery bombardments that destroyed tons of donated grain, killed dozens of civilians and may have ruined port facilities.

Whether the port is usable is, at the moment, moot. Fighting in and around the area has effectively closed both it and the only road inland to the provincial capital of Asmara, which is still held by the government.

United Nations and other aid officials say more than 30,000 people already have made the long, dangerous trek from their homes in northern Ethiopia into neighbouring Sudan or to government-held areas in Eritrea, themselves perilously short of food.

"We can't really count all those already on the move, because we don't have access to many areas," the relief official in Addis Ababa said. "We do know this: It's bad and getting worse."

It was hoped that adequate food distribution throughout the region this year would prevent the mass migrations that occurred in 1984-85, when hundreds of thousands of people trekked to ill-prepared feeding centres. Malnourished and weak, many died en route.



Four million people are threatened with starvation in northern Ethiopia due to drought and the on-going civil war.

Of those who made it, more died of disease caused by overcrowding than starvation.

To the west of Ethiopia, in Sudan, a similar situation exists.

There, additional tens of thousands have been displaced in recent months by a 7-year-old civil war that already has killed an estimated 500,000 unarmed civilians.

A U.N.-sponsored relief effort was credited with savings thousands of people from

starvation in southern Sudan last year, and a second phase of the project, known as operation lifeline Sudan, is scheduled to start next month.

But Tuesday, the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) objected to the U.N. operation, saying its plan for distributing food favoured the government. Without specifically saying so, the rebels hinted they may try to halt the operation unless the plan is altered.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Iraq calls Arab League meeting

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League will meet in Tunis Monday at Iraq's request to counter international criticism of Iraq's execution of British-based journalist Farzad Bazoft. A League spokesman said Saturday. Iranian-born Bazoft, who worked for the London Sunday newspaper the Observer, was convicted on spying for Britain and Israel and was hanged in Baghdad on March 15, despite appeals for clemency from Western countries and the United Nations. Several Arab countries have supported Iraq in the dispute and the Arab League, meeting at permanent representative level, is expected to make a statement of solidarity.

40 Kurds held after London protest

LONDON (R) — More than 40 Turkish Kurds were arrested after they occupied a Turkish Airlines office in central London Friday and threatened to set fire to the building, police said. Surrounding streets were cordoned off as police persuaded the group to end their occupation, believed to be a protest against alleged oppression of Kurds in Turkey. "Police identified a man in possession of petrol and matches. He made threats regarding possible damage to the building," a police spokeswoman said. Staff in the airline office were released unharmed before police began negotiations with the Kurds. The 40 Kurds, including a number of women and children, left the building voluntarily after spending seven hours inside. There was no violence, police said. Kurds occupied the Turkish Airlines offices last August but left peacefully after talks with police.

ICRC complains of abuse of emblem

NAIROBI (R) — The Red Cross complained Saturday that other relief organisations in Sudan were flying flags too much like its own. President Cornelio Sommaruga of the Swiss-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said he "noted with great concern allegations of the misuse of the Red Cross emblem in Sudan." Sommaruga's statement, issued as he left Kenya for Uganda, drew attention to what he called "the regrettable practice of some NGOs (non-governmental organisations) of using logos and emblems deceptively similar to the plain Red Cross on a white field." He did not name the organisations but ICRC sources said one was the French medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), which uses a white cross on a red background. An MSF plane was shot down with the loss of four lives as it took off from the government-held town of Aweil in southern Sudan in January. The ICRC is involved in relief operations on both the government and rebel side of the civil war in southern Sudan. Sommaruga said abuse of the internationally recognised Red Cross emblem "endangered the credibility and the lives of those people rightfully using it to provide independent, neutral and impartial help to war victims."

2 Britons held in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Two British male nurses are under arrest in Saudi Arabia's eastern province in circumstances that are yet unclear. British embassy officials and other sources reported Saturday. The embassy did not identify the men or give any details. But the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the arrests took place about a week ago in Absoq near the kingdom's oil capital of Dhahran. The sources were unclear about the reason for the arrests. Some contended the Britons were taking photographs in forbidden areas, others said the men were involved in pornographic video deals. An embassy spokesman, who cannot be named under embassy rules, said, "we're in touch with the Saudi authorities about the arrests. It is our understanding that the men have not been charged yet." Last July, another British male nurse was jailed for dealing in contraband pornography. The arrest was not mentioned in the local media. The usual procedure in Saudi Arabia for dealing with foreigners in such cases is to have them arraigned and tried, and then to deport them. There are a number of British male nurses working at the British-run Al Fanateer Hospital in Jubail a petrochemical industry centre near Dhahran.

Israeli envoy starts Ethiopia term

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Israel's new ambassador to Ethiopia, Meir Joffe, has presented his credentials to President Mengistu Haile Mariam, following the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in November. The official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said the ceremony took place Friday. Diplomatic sources in Addis Ababa said earlier this week that Ethiopia was planning to open an embassy in Israel later this year, probably in Tel Aviv. The diplomatic sources said that since relations between the two states were re-established, the emigration of black Falasha Jews from Ethiopia to Israel had resumed. An Israeli official said there were still more than 15,000 Falashas in Ethiopia, mostly living in their traditional homeland in the northern province of Gondar. "We are doing everything we can under a family reunification programme with the full cooperation and coordination of the Ethiopian government for those who want to come to Israel," the official said. The official said it usually took two to three months to process the papers of those Falashas wishing to emigrate, but he declined to say how many were leaving Ethiopia.

Charles on private visit to Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — Britain's Prince Charles arrived in Tunis Friday night for a private visit which ends on Monday. British embassy sources said. The prince is expected to pay a courtesy call on President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali Monday but has no other appointments, they said. Prince Charles is on his way home from visits to Nigeria and Cameroon. His wife, Princess Diana, went straight home Friday morning.

Kuwait plans to build training camps

KUWAIT (R) — Yugoslavia signed a contract on Saturday to build training bases for the 20,000-strong Kuwaiti army, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said. It gave no details. Kuwait last year ordered an undisclosed number of Yugoslav M-84 tanks in what diplomats described as a debt-settling deal. The tank is a Yugoslav version of the Soviet-designed T-72.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:10	Football
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Local programme
18:20	Cultural programme
19:00	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Local programme
22:00	News in Arabic
22:30	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:50	Tel Pere Tel Fil
18:15	L'ecole de l'air
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en France
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:40	Varieties programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Who's the Boss?
21:10	Documentary
22:00	News in English
22:30	Pastorak
PRAYER TIMES	
04:12	Fajr
05:30	(Sunrise) Duha

11:40	Dhuhr
15:11	'Asr
17:54	Maghrib
19:11	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfah, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390	
Church of the Association Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terranova Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Association Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 625453	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	

It will be partly cloudy and winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shuaib	791405
Dr. Mohammad Azzam	819925
Dr. Khalaf Yousef	667129
Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf	622520
Firas pharmacy	622520
Perdows pharmacy	778336
Al Azema pharmacy	637055
Naroukh pharmacy	626372
Al Salan pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Kamal Al Najjar	(—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy	(985238)
ZABQA:	
Dr. Abdul Latif Shurhadi	(—)
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	801228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	661646
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615

Dr. Kamal Al Najjar	(—)
Al Shura'a pharmacy	985236
ZARQA:	
Dr. Abdul Latif Sharrbin	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630241
Civil Defence Emergency	1977
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 631599
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	895390
Police Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs	661101
Radio Television	775111
Radio Jordan	775111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615

Islamists sidelined in Agriculture Engineers Association leadership

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three consecutive terms of domination by Islamists of Jordan's Association of Agriculture Engineers came to an end in the early hours of Saturday as a pan-Arab and leftist bloc — the Greens — won six out of nine seats on the association's executive committee.

Phaleb Abu Orabi and Muhammad Abu Ayash, the Green bloc's candidates for presidency and vice-presidency, were elected along with four other Green candidates, including one woman.

Despite the relatively low turnout — only 896 of a possible 1,243 registered voters took part in Friday's voting process — association members made no secret of their grievances.

With the decline of economic prosperity in Jordan, agriculture engineers say that they were among the first victims of the economic crisis.

“Lack of guidelines or framework to protect their profession and the ‘hitherto unexplored agricultural potential of the Kingdom,’ many of the voters called for a drastic change in the administration and direction of their 24-year-old union.”

The “Greens” dominated the association from 1986 through 1984 but lost out to the Islamists — the White bloc — since then. Only one Green sat on the last executive committee, which was chaired by Tarek Al Tel.

Supporters of the Greens and other agriculture engineers who said that they were not aligned with any bloc cited certain policies of the previous administrations as factors that led to their downfall.

High unemployment, which was described as “slow job mobility,” and the “general inactivity” of the previous executive committee were cited as deterrents to elect the White bloc to power.

The membership fees is JD 12, but a JD 120 pension plan fee must be paid by the association's members to qualify as eligible voters.

“First of all it is unfair; other professional associations don't have such harsh stipulations when it comes to voting eligibility,” said an obviously angry voter. “Secondly, they have put our pension money in the Islamic Bank where the interest rate is six per cent; maybe we don't like that, but they never even consulted us,” he said.

The Independents

The Green-White differences were played up by a third bloc, which was established only a few weeks before the elections.

The leader of the Independent bloc, Akaf Zoubi, is a former Green member who split from the bloc which he helped lead. Zoubi told the Jordan Times that he formed his five-member ticket, which is a mixture of pan-Arabists, Islamists and one “very traditional” candidate, because he was “sick of the over-politicisation” of the other blocs. “This is no longer a professional union but a political arena and I think it's time we become more concerned with agricultural issues,” Zoubi said.

Insiders said that Zoubi was angry that he had not been chosen as the presidential candidate of the Green bloc and had objected to what he considered the misrepresentation of certain political forces on the Green ticket.

Although the independent slate did not win any seat on the committee, Zoubi vowed to continue the “building of an independent bloc” in the association.

The Agriculture Engineers Association, like almost all other professional unions in the Kingdom, had served as a forum for political thoughts during the years of martial law, when political parties were banned.

Although the Whites never had a strong base among the agriculturists and apparently failed to use their leadership of the association during the last six years to improve the bargaining leverage of agriculturists both in the public and private sectors, they were shocked by their defeat Saturday morning.

Citing low voter turnout and the effect of the third bloc in the race as reasons for the Whites' defeat, one White bloc campaign manager could only say, “Next time more people will vote and we will be in again.”

One veteran association member disagreed. “The new committee might change some of the voting requirements, making it less expensive for members of vote,” he said. “That way more of the association's 2,000 members may have the chance to vote next time, and I think they will elect those who gave them the chance to vote,” he added.

The new executive committee members are: Ghaleb Abu Oreibi (president), Mohammad Abu Ayash (vice-president), Kayed Rashdan, Hassan Halaseh, Ibrahim Abu Oreili, Karima Ghannem (the sole woman), and the three Whites on the committee are Ghassan Momani, Samir Habab and Jihad Abu Mishret.



A worker sprays crops with pesticides in the Jordan Valley. Jordan's experience in farming is the focus of a two-day symposium which opened in Amman Saturday (File photo)

Experts review Jordan's farming

RAMTHA (Petra) — A symposium on agricultural systems in Jordan opened at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Saturday with the participation of specialists from JUST and the Ministry of Agriculture's National Centre for Research and Technology (NCRT).

The participants will discuss field experiments, and will conduct assessments of Jordanian agricultural projects and the results at the ministry's agricultural stations.

Ministry of Agriculture Secretary-General Sami Al Sunna addressed the opening session of the two-day meeting, underlining

the importance of agriculture in Jordan and urging an increase in the production of cereals.

Sunna also outlined the various agricultural services which, he said, offer great assistance to the farmers.

“Lack of trained agricultural workers, lack of proper marketing and pricing systems for agricultural products are among the main problems impeding the development of farming in Jordan,” said Sunna.

The participants will make field trips to a number of agricultural stations and main agricultural schemes in the country.

Leftists take total control of banking, insurance staff

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — All 11 candidates of the leftist “National bloc” of Jordan Banks and Insurance Employees Association (JBIEA) were elected to the association's general committee, but with the lowest turnout of voters in the history of the association's elections, organisers said Saturday.

Only 1,039 members — 35.2 per cent of the 2,947 eligible voters — of the association showed up at the Opera Cinema to cast their votes Friday, according to one of the winners from the “National bloc,” Yousef Hourani.

Hourani, who received 725 votes, told the Jordan Times Saturday that the voter turnout was “disappointingly low, especially in comparison with other associations and unions where 60 to 70 per cent of the members take part in the elections.”

One of the reasons for the low turnout, he said, was the imbalance in the strength of the two competing blocs — the “National bloc” and the non-political “Renewal and change bloc.”

“The members knew that the National bloc would win anyway because of the history and reputation of the candidates' activity in the association. So many members depended on that fact without bothering to show up to cast

their votes,” Hourani said.

He cited the timing of elections as another reason for the low turnout, saying that many people used the last Friday before the Holy Month of Ramadan to go on their trips and outings.

The association's elections were originally scheduled to be held in January but were postponed for two months because the leftists were coordinating among themselves to run as one bloc and because of cases the JBIEA was working on.

“We were busy with the demands of the Petra Bank employees and their protest; we were also busy with the demands of the employees of the Jordan-Kuwait Bank and the Cairo-Amman Bank,” Hourani explained.

He said that 345 JBIEA members cast their votes for the entire list of the 11 candidates of the “National bloc,” while 85 votes went to the four members of the “Renewal bloc.” Jamal Ayyad received 432 votes, the highest from the “Renewal bloc.” The rest of the 609 votes went to candidates from two blocs, or votes from both blocs excluded some candidates from the respective blocs, he explained.

This was the first time that the leftists joined forces in the JBIEA election by running in the same bloc rather than compete against each other.

Haider Rashid, one of the longest-reigning association

presidents — from 1974 to 1984 and from 1986 to 1990 — received the highest number of votes with 795. It is expected that he retain the presidency for the next years.

Hourani said that the “National bloc” had agreed in principle over the allocation of seats in the general committee, but a formal announcement would be made later this week.

The programme, of the “National bloc,” which includes Marxist and nationalist members, promises JBIEA members that it will defend their rights related to working conditions and salaries, and vows to “participate in the struggle to amend and develop the laws that will serve the people, especially the labour law and social security.”

The promises went beyond the realm of the employees of banks, insurance companies and accounting firms, by vowing that the bloc would fight for national and union unity and “accelerate the struggle in the Jordan Federation of General Labour Unions in defence of the Jordanian working class and its causes.”

In addition to fighting for the “equality and justice for working women,” the “National bloc” programme also promises to participate in the “national and popular struggle for more public and union freedoms, and to express solidarity with the causes of the Jordanian and Palestinian people.”

West Bank education continues in spite of Israeli ‘war’ — Nasir

AMMAN (Petra) — Despite the closure of Arab universities in the occupied territories at least 40 per cent of the total number of students graduated over the past two years, according to Bir Zeit University President Dr. Hanna Nasir.

“The universities are going through a long process of preparing the rest of the students for graduation after providing them with the required courses,” the expelled university president said in an interview in a Jordan Television programme entitled “Encounter.”

Nasir, who was appointed president of Bir Zeit University in 1972, was expelled by the Israeli

authorities in 1974 and since then has been conducting his affairs from his office in Amman.

“Arab universities in the occupied lands do not serve only as educational institutions, but rather as social development centres where local leaderships are created,” Nasir said in the interview conducted by Rami Khouri, former editor of the Jordan Times.

“The Israelis regard these universities as centres for building the Palestinian nation and for this reason they declared war on education, describing it as a criminal action,” Nasir added. He said that students pursue their studies privately outside the uni-

versities, but if caught, they are punished by the Israeli authorities.

Nasir, who served as member of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for five years, said the Palestinians pursue education while maintaining their struggle against occupation “because this is the only means for ensuring survival.”

Nasir described the intifada in its third year now, as the “greatest movement ever undertaken by the Palestinians” and said that “resistance activity is highly organised and covers all parts of the occupied territories.”

Aid for uprising is zakat — general mufti

AMMAN (Petra) — The general mufti Saturday issued a statement stressing that donations made to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories are considered as zakat (funds paid by Muslims to help the poor).

The mufti, Sheikh Izzeddin Al Tamimi, said that zakat, an assistance normally paid to the poor, can be paid to “the oppressed Palestinians who are involved in resisting occupation by infidels in the holy shrines in Palestine.”

Tamimi noted that a special zakat fund, set up by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs which receives the donations for the poor, had been entrusted with the task of handling donations to the Palestinian people involved in

the uprising.

“The donations are channelled through the ministry to the occupied Arab territories for the benefit of the families of martyrs and injured people,” Tamimi said.

In another statement, Tamimi said that his office would be open during the Holy Month of Ramadan to receive requests by members of the public about interpretations of Islamic law. “The ifta council will be meeting during the Holy Month for the purpose of receiving enquiries and replying to them,” Tamimi added.

He said that any interpretation of the Islamic laws and regulations would be offered free of charge.



Heads of the civil aviation authorities of the four Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member states — Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan — meet in Amman Saturday (Petra photo)

ACC aviation chiefs discuss links

AMMAN (Petra) — Heads of civil aviation authorities in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) opened a two-day meeting here Saturday to discuss matters designed to unify laws and regulations and initiate closer cooperation.

The delegates representing Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen will be discussing issues such as developing aircraft maintenance and unified systems for airport services as well as the question of considering the ACC as one regional aviation zone.

Mahmoud Balqaz, head of the Jordanian delegation and director-general of the Civil

Aviation Authority (CAA), said that the Amman meeting was a continuation of those held in Baghdad, Sana'a and Cairo and which resulted in the formation of sub-committees dealing with trade and technical and legal affairs pertaining to civil aviation.

“A civil aviation agreement concluded at the ACC summit held in Amman last month provided a framework for closer cooperation and it was hoped that the ACC civil aviation authorities would put its provisions into practice during 1990, Balqaz said.

Balqaz referred to major challenges facing the four ACC countries, mainly worldwide economic

developments and the creation of giant airline corporations among European airlines which, he said, will present Arab airlines with fierce competition.

Iraqi delegate Noureddin Safi told the meeting that the ACC civil aviation authorities stand to benefit in terms of financial remittances by acting as one integrated airline company, especially when dealing with foreign insurance companies.

Safi also drew attention to the prospect of reaping joint benefits from launching integrated plans in air transport operations and facilitating travel of citizens from ACC member states.

U.S. senate move assailed

(Continued from page 1)

has ignored its own interests for so long has opened the door for such resolutions to be adopted, and we have to brace ourselves for ‘more of the same’ if we Arabs continue along the same road of apathy and weakness,” Arar said.

He stressed that “Arab and Palestinian rights cannot and will not be restored by groups and institutions that are dominated by our enemies.”

The speaker of the Lower House added that “the Arab World has to take a sincere and firm stand against those who make a mockery of the Arabs' strategic interests and legitimate aspirations.”

Several other members of the Lower House also condemned the American Senate's move.

Amman Deputy Faris Nabulsi said those senators who voted for the resolution were clearly pro-Israel and opportunists, but “more importantly perhaps they are after political and financial support from the Jewish lobby in

the U.S. in preparation for congressional elections in November.”

Nabulsi, a member of the Democratic bloc in the Lower House, said that those senators who endorsed the resolution should be boycotted by the Arab World “to the extent that it should be made clear to them that their presence on Arab soil in the future is most unwelcome.”

Nabulsi said European and other world parliaments should be contacted immediately, either bilaterally or through the Arab Parliamentary Union, to expose the U.S. Senate's resolution in an attempt to reverse it.

Deputy Taher Al Masri (Amman), a former foreign minister who now heads the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said that this was not the first time that the U.S. Senate had tried to “impose such a step on the U.S. administration and to change the status of Jerusalem.” He said that the adoption of the resolution at this time was a “grave mistake and shows that the U.S. Senate is taking a very hostile measure

against Arab countries.”

He added that he did not feel that such a move was in the best interests of the U.S. and that he hoped that the U.S. administration would not consider adopting such a resolution.

Islamist Deputy Laith Shbeilat said that the endorsement of the resolution by 84 out of 100 U.S. Senate members only “proves the deep animosity and bias that the U.S. has towards Arabs and Muslims.” He said that the U.S. was a “province of greater Israel” and that such a resolution comes as no surprise.

He lamented that many in the Arab and Islamic world still had faith in the U.S., saying that it was obvious that the U.S. intended only to “enslave and contain them as third class citizens on this planet.”

He said that he saw no other way except to fight. “We have to fight on all fronts and the U.S. will have to change their cherished values that have proven to be nothing but double standards and hypocrisy.”

Exhibition opened on weather equipment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Meteorological Department Saturday organised a two-week exhibition displaying equipment used in weather-forecasting operations to mark World Meteorology Day.

The exhibition, held at the department's headquarters in Marka, was part of activities to highlight the work of the department and that of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), according to department Director Ali Abanda.

In a brief speech, Abanda outlined the importance of weather-forecasting in relation to various natural disasters and said that storms, floods, snow blizzards, as well as spells of cold and very hot weather were considered natural causes for disasters and are all closely connected with weather forecasting.

“Such matters as preparations against expected natural disasters and first aid, relief operations and warnings to the public constitute part of the meteorology department's task,” Abanda noted.

Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications Secretary-General Mohammad Smadi delivered another speech emphasising the role of trained staff and the availability of modern equipment for efficient weather forecasting.

The WMO started activities and was recognised as a specialised agency of the United Nations in 1951, aiming to improve the exchange of weather information and its applications.

The organisation has a 36-member executive committee, which meets yearly to prepare studies and recommendations for the WMO congress, supervises the implementation of resolutions and regulations, informs members on technical matters and offers advice. Jordan is a member of the WMO which is based in Geneva.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet endorses AESC decisions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers met Saturday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh and decided to endorse decisions and recommendations taken by the 43rd session of the Arab Economic and Social Council (AESC) held in Cairo last month. The council also appointed Ghazi Libadeh as director of the appliances department at the Ministry of Finance and member of the board of the Postal Savings Fund for a three-year term representing the Ministry of Finance.

Ministry sets Ramadan working hours

AMMAN (Petra) — Employees and teachers at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education offices will work during the month of Ramadan from 9:30 a.m. till 2:00 p.m., according to a decision announced Saturday by Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan. The decision also defined working hours for employees at the education departments from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and those working at schools from 8:00 a.m. The decision limited the class period to 40 minutes, and the break, which is usually after the third class, to 20 minutes.

Abu Taleb meets French air chief

AMMAN (Petra) — French Air Force Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Jean Fleury met in Amman Saturday with Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb and reviewed the situation in the Middle East region in general and issues of common interest to Jordan and France in particular. The French general later called at the Martyrs Monument and reviewed the displayed items featuring the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces since the Great Arab Revolt. Fleury arrived in Amman Friday evening on a several-day visit to Jordan during which he will also tour a number of military positions.

Exhibition opens on heritage

ZARQA (Petra) — An exhibition on Jordanian-Palestinian heritage was opened Saturday at Al Abbassi Club in Zarqa. The exhibition, opened by the head of the Public Committee for Supporting the Intifada in Zarqa, includes various costumes representing cities and villages in Jordan and Palestine, paintings depicting the local environment, photos of martyrs of the intifada and cassettes and tapes of national songs.

Bio-climatic architecture under review

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) today hosts a special symposium on bio-climatic architecture in cooperation with the Italian Soft Energy System and the Egyptian Building Research Corporation. Representatives of various ministries, public organisations, engineering offices and factories in Jordan are expected to take part in the two-day meeting.

Sharia, fiqh debated in Jeddah

AMMAN (Petra) — The Orphans Fund took part in the meetings of the Islamic Fiqh (jurisprudence) Council, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from March 14 to March 20 to discuss several issues and the Islamic Sharia (law) concerning them. Director-general of the Orphans Fund Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, who represented the Fund in Jeddah's meetings, said that the meeting took a number of decisions pertaining to transplant, surgery, test-tube babies and Islamic real estate funding among other issues.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

THE NATIONAL WEEK FOR SUPPORTING THE INTIFADA

- ★ Recital of Palestinian national songs at Terrace Hall International — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition entitled “The Palestinian Uprising in Photos”, displaying photos, cartoons, books and posters depicting the Palestinian uprising, at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Exhibition of Jordanian-Palestinian heritage which includes costumes, paintings, photos and cassettes of national songs, at Al Abbassi Club, Zarqa.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of plastic artists Arif Al Hamad and Ibrahim Al Nabahneh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition entitled “Spanish contemporary engravings” at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ The spring exhibition of Bani Hamida women's weaving project at the Bani Hamida House - Jabal Amman, Rainbow Street.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Issam Tantawi at Alia Art Gallery.

THEATRE

- ★ Arabic puppet play entitled “Fables from my Grandmother's Chest” at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Arabic poetry reading by Abdulhadi Radwan and Mohammad Arnaoush at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled “It's a wonderful life” at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Jordan Times

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For prompt action on Senate resolution

THE U.S. Senate's resolution on Jerusalem Thursday does not only contravene U.N. and U.S. resolutions and policies on the Arab-Israeli conflict, but also contradicts itself, in both substance and form.

The U.S. senators, who signed the resolution "acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel" did not understand, or chose to ignore, that such measures will not help the peace process, nor will it contribute to recognising the U.S. as an honest broker in the Middle East.

This is what exactly might have been on the minds of the American legislators who sponsored the resolution in the Senate: to torpedo all recent U.S. attempts to bring the Palestinians and the Israelis together for talks on coexistence and their future in the area.

The language used in the resolution notwithstanding, it is obvious to us that the intention behind issuing the resolution was neither to reassure Israel, nor to help the Bush administration in its efforts to bring about peace in the area. The whole attempt has been orchestrated to let Israel off the hook, just exactly when pressure on the Jewish state was starting to produce results.

Apart from considering congressional elections in the U.S. in November as a possible explanation for the Senate vote, we have little precious information on which to base a judgement on the situation that led to the resolution. Analysis of the work of the Jewish lobby and its interaction with mainstream American politics should take the backseat for now, however. What is important for our purposes in the Arab World is action, first to stop the resolution from being also adopted by the House of Representatives and fought by the administration, and second to make the Senate understand the consequences of its irresponsible resolutions.

The Arab World cannot possibly afford to remain silent in the face of such blows to its integrity and interests. There has to be something that the Arabs can do to counter such threats, both individually and collectively. What action is needed to nip the Senate resolution in its bud, we cannot say in a few words. What can be said is that there has to be a concerted effort by our governments and parliaments and peoples to counter the new threat from Capitol Hill. Our politicians, parliamentarians and institutions have to be brainstormed for possible retaliatory steps against the U.S. Senate and possibly the whole U.S. Congress, and then the necessary steps have to be translated into solid actions that can actually save us all from the impending tragedy that awaits us.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

UNDER THE title "partners in responsibility," Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday welcomed Prime Minister Mudar Badran's three-day tour of the southern regions of Jordan as a favourable response not only to the King's directives but also as a means to meet the needs of the people in the drought-stricken regions of Jordan. The paper said that the tour was part of an ongoing process of democracy and a way of maintaining open channels of communication between government and people to work together towards progress and construction. There is no doubt that the democratic atmosphere that presently prevails in Jordan encourages such a dialogue, but it should be noted that the government does not possess ready-made solutions and sufficient means to implement plans that would enable the people to overcome the present difficulties and problems, the paper noted. It said that the prime minister's tour is bound to open new avenues of cooperation between the citizens of Jordan and their government, as both sides are partners in sharing responsibility. It said that the people in the three governorates should act as responsible citizens, taking part in finding solutions not serving as people with mere requests awaiting others to find solutions for their problems.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily notes in Saturday's edition that Jordan's apprehension of Jewish immigration into Palestine is justified because the only result of such immigration is further delay in peaceful solutions and no withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Arab lands occupied since 1967. Jordan is also apprehensive that such immigration would end up with a massive exodus of Palestinians who will be forced to leave Palestinian land to settle in Jordan which, as Israel claims, should serve as a substitute homeland for the Palestinian people. Faded Al Faneek notes. Therefore, he adds, such immigration constitutes a direct threat to the Kingdom and calls for effective measures to counter the move, the writer stresses. Faneek proposes a nine-point plan with which to counter the Zionist moves: He calls for enhancing the Palestinian uprising which he considers as the first defence line for Jordan, a world-wide campaign supported by various friendly organisations to highlight the danger inherent in the immigration programme, urging Arab Communist parties to exercise pressure on Moscow to halt the immigration, a serious attempt to convince Washington of the dangers inherent in Israel's plans, urging the Soviet media to highlight the uprising in Palestine, emphasising Jordan's independent and sovereign state, placing restrictions to prevent an eviction of Palestinians from Palestine to Jordan, and calling for an Arab summit to chart plans for a counter move.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the start of investigations into the case of leaking parliamentary deliberations on the issue of corruption to the press. The paper said that it was natural for a country living through democracy to see the fourth estate, the press, revealing aspects of the issue to the public since the question of corruption is a matter of concern to all citizens of Jordan and the Kingdom's destiny. The paper expressed hope that the probe would not divert the parliament from its original task of revealing the identity of those responsible for the Kingdom's plight and those responsible for the corruption. The paper said that the deputy who leaked some information to the press should not be regarded as a traitor and there is no need for setting up a committee to disclose his identity. But, it said, some kind of action can be taken internally that would ensure the secrecy of the future meetings of the Lower House of Parliament.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Economic adjustment is a nation

EFFORTS to put the national economy on the right track is an awesome task that could not be finished within a relatively short period of time. It is a hardship that needs commitment and persistence, until stability is restored and results achieved.

Jordan is one of the rare countries that made up its mind very soon after the economic crisis hit. The country adopted coherent adjustment programmes and put them into effect with the minimum of delay.

Only Jordan was able to reverse the sharp economic decline, stabilise the situation and finalise re-scheduling agreements with creditors in a record short period of time.

However, we should have no illusions that the problem is now behind us, or that every

thing is going back to normal very soon. Lots of hardships and even sufferings are still lying ahead of us.

In order for us to persist and push-on with our programme, without hesitation, we have to know and be convinced that the economic correction programme is not meant to secure the rights of creditors, or to squeeze the people and starve them in order to save foreign exchange for debt service. Rather, the programme is needed for the best interest of the Jordanian economy and the Jordanian people.

Of course shortages of foreign exchange may hurt the creditors, but it will hurt the economy and cause shortages in food, raw materials and other necessary imported items. We witnessed the beginning of such situation during

the six months following the crisis of October 1988. What we have seen then is nothing compared to the consequences of economic collapse, when the production comes to a stand still due to lack of imported input.

Thanks to the swift measures and policies, that the government started in April 1989, the foreign exchange situation eased, and is now under control.

Creditors will not get repaid unless Jordan first satisfied its own basic needs. Without correction we cannot pay the creditors; and without correction we cannot meet the basic needs of the industry, agriculture, families, and the Armed Forces.

The creditors know that Jordan cannot pay them back during the coming five years, and that is why they agreed to

re-schedule debts, and give Jordan a grace period to re-arrange its own house.

For at least five years, the fruits of correction will be reaped by the people and the national economy. After that, it depends. If we recover fully and achieve a surplus in our balance of payments account, we shall resume repayments of the principal, and our indebtedness will start to decrease. If not, the creditors will have no alternative except to give us another grace period, and roll over their debts for more years, provided they are convinced that during the first five years we did all that we could to reasonably rectify our economy and eliminate distortions.

However, I do not believe that in five years Jordan will become a surplus country in its

international trade. The main target is to reduce deficit and cover part of gap.

Therefore, it is quite obvious that the current five years rectification programme is solely the benefit of the people the creditors. If we do adjust we shall find ourselves unable to import food, material, oil, spare parts machinery, etc.

Although many politicians raised their voices against programme in the name of people, and, by doing gained some publicity popularity, yet every knows, by now, that politicians had no alternative programme were unable to prove the objectives of the programme not desirable in their right, irrespective of whether

NATO ponders the surreal — 'enemy' troops

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

BRUSSELS — NATO is facing the surreal prospect of having thousands of "enemy" troops stationed on its soil — and even of paying for some of them.

With German unification seemingly just around the corner, harassed officials at NATO headquarters on the outskirts of Brussels are trying to answer the following question:

If a united Germany is a member of the Western alliance, what happens to thousands of Soviet troops stationed on East German territory, the frontline of an increasingly ragged Warsaw Pact? Will they, and their nuclear weapons, stay on?

And what will happen to the East German army, once the pride of the Eastern bloc alliance?

"It may sound crazy, but we may have a situation where perhaps the heaviest concentration of Warsaw Pact troops is, at least for a time, stationed on NATO territory," said one official. "Germany may even have to pay for some of them."

The irony is not lost on officials here who work for an organisation that spent four decades making sure that no Warsaw Pact soldier set foot on alliance territory.

The four World War II allied powers — the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France — are discussing these questions with the two Germans in the so-called "two plus four" talks. Four of those six countries are NATO members.

Moscow has rejected NATO's demand that a single German state should be a member of the Western alliance, even though NATO has said it would not station its own troops in what is

now East Germany.

But the Soviet Union has also indicated that it could not withdraw all its 380,000 frontline forces from East Germany immediately, NATO officials say.

"The Soviets have nowhere to put them and their families, there is a chronic housing shortage," said one official. "Their economy cannot cope with the strain just

now."

"Keeping at least some of them there for a while would ease the Soviet burden, help their security concerns a little and would be a useful face-saver for Moscow," he added.

Since East Germany paid much of the cost of keeping Soviet troops there when it was a hard-line Communist state, it seems

increasingly likely that a united Germany will have to bear at least some of the costs in the future.

Although NATO envisages a Soviet troop presence in Germany for only a "transitional period" — a view recently endorsed by Secretary-General Manfred Woerner — no one seems quite sure how many will

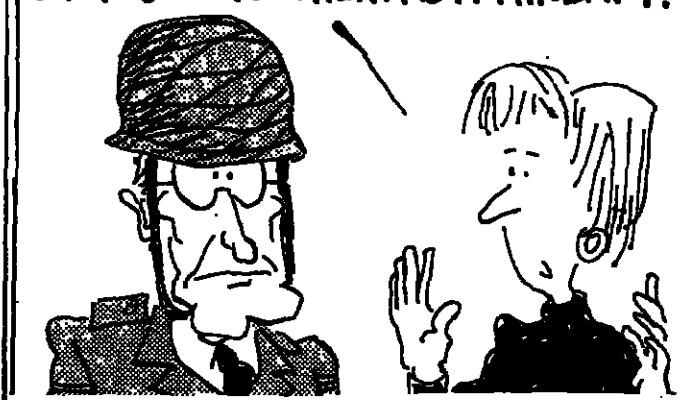
stay and how long that transitional period will be.

NATO has 400,000 troops in West Germany, which part of the costs of keeping combat troops on its soil means that a united Germany could be in the position of keeping troops from two military alliances. The Soviet forces in E

WHILE SOVIET CITIZENS FORM PARTIES,
YOU CLING TO STAR WARS



ISN'T THERE A TIME WHEN WE CAN
STOP SEEING THEM AS A THREAT?!



WHILE EAST EUROPEANS BUILD VOTING
BOOTH, YOU BUILD B-2 BOMBERS



WHEN THEY ALL REGISTER
AS REPUBLICANS



LETTERS

Lena

To the Editor:

RECENTLY during the last hard rain in Amman, in the middle of a bleak, dark night, a young woman named Lena, gave birth to her fourth child, a girl. Most women are happy to be relieved of their nine month burden, but Lena with great misery and sadness, dreaded the birth of her child.

The day after Lena's beautiful healthy, blond baby was born, Lena's mother-in-law came to the hospital, but not to pay a social visit. Lena's mother-in-law came to take the little bundle home with her. Lena did not go home with her baby, but instead went to her father's house, now her home, empty-handed.

As she opened the door to her once again home, there were no young children to happily greet her. Her three young sons who would normally have shared with Lena the joy of a little sister were also not there. Four beautiful children who Lena had loved and cared for had been erased from Lena's life. No more could they find solace in Lena's welcoming arms. No more would they be comforted by Lena's healing kisses, for they were now in their father's custody.

Lena is a sweet, gentle, attractive woman. She is bashful and quiet. It is hard to understand why her husband divorced her, but much cause for her divorce came from a hostile mother-in-law, jealous sisters-in-laws and an apathetic husband. Added to this was her belligerent mother who always took Lena's oppression as an excuse to vent her hostilities against Lena's in-laws. Since Lena, her husband and children had all lived with Lena's in-laws, life was a continuous struggle for survival. Lena's sweet disposition was no match either for her husband's family or her mother.

Lena spent the last months of her pregnancy in her father's house serving her mother like a maid. Her mother would nonchalantly go out visiting while Lena was left to do the housework and the cooking. Humiliated by divorce and deeply sorrowed by the loss of her children, Lena must now sit at home and wait for some miracle to relieve her of the drudgery of her present situation. Can such a person ever find happiness in any possible future marriage fearing that any children she might bear will also be taken away from her?

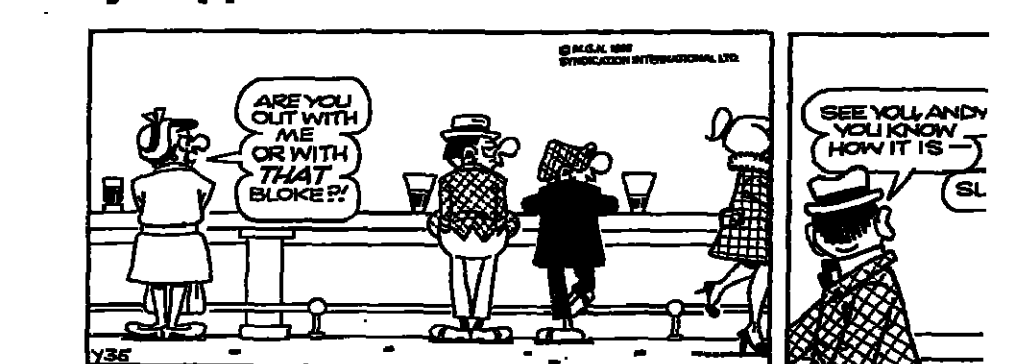
Meanwhile, her mother's vengeance has been wrought at Lena's expense. Lena's husband is none the worse for his divorce for he was looking for a wife before he sent Lena packing. Lena's in-laws with an already large family will have just one more mouth to feed with another baby. So who cares? But Lena cares. Her small children care, and what about the tiny new life that was brought into the world? Can anyone's touch or love compare to Lena's? Truly divorce is the destruction of a sacred institution. It is a home breaker and a life wrecker and those hurt most are mothers and their children.

E. Yaghi
Amman

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



مذكرات

LA SEMAINE DE ...

Suleiman Sweiss

Ramadan: mois spirituel socialisé

Encore quelques jours et nous y sommes. Ramadan est derrière les portes... Il arrive. Mercredi ou jeudi, on change d'horaires de travail, de repas et de bon nombre d'autres habitudes pour s'accommoder avec les rites du mois saint. Une toute autre atmosphère va envahir le pays, avec des rues qui se vidant entre six heures et huit heures le soir; des fonctionnaires paresseux le matin; des bus des écoles qui arrivent un peu tard et des magasins ouverts une partie de la nuit.



Les relations sociales s'activent par le biais des banquets de "foutour" traditionnel, tous les soirs. Les plats et les pâtisseries "ramadaniens", notamment les "kataef", vont réapparaître et retrouver leurs marchés. Mais d'ores et déjà, on craint comme les années précédentes des hausses de prix, suite aux dépenses alimentaires excessives attendues dans les semaines à venir.

Mois de jeûne et de sacrifice, Ramadan s'est en effet transformé au fil des ans en un mois d'abondance et de gaspillage. Pour les riches, c'est le moyen de s'exhiber et de se rassasier de tout. Pour les pauvres, c'est une occasion de manger à leur faim, car le reste de l'année est "Ramadan" jour et nuit.

Crise économique et traditions

Il est peu probable que la crise économique, que traverse le pays, puisse modifier des habitudes prises depuis de longues années. Certes, des gens vont essayer de réduire leur consommation et d'économiser. Mais ils vont assez vite se rendre compte que leur marge de manoeuvre est étroite, s'ils veulent se conformer aux obligations sociales et aux traditions. Mais Ramadan ne se résume pas seulement à coup de fourchette. C'est aussi une ambiance, des prières et des rites. Les visites et les réunions d'amis autour de la table offrent autant d'occasions de parler de tout et de rien: actualité et affaires de corruption, questions politiques et sociales, plaisanteries, affaires personnelles et affaires tout court.

L'ouverture politique que connaît notre pays depuis quelques mois va certainement marquer Ramadan 1990. Députés, partis et personnalités politiques vont en profiter pour se manifester et pour regrouper partisans et alliés au cours de longues soirées.

Dans le même temps, le mois saint, lui, se voit graduellement vidé de son contenu spirituel. Exemples: pour diminuer l'effet du jeûne pendant la journée, on augmente les quantités de repas le soir et avant la prière de l'aube; pour "apporter" plus facilement les "souffrances" qu'il provoque, on réduit les horaires et les tâches professionnels. De nombreux dossiers s'en trouvent reportés. Et l'on entend le refrain habituel: "Venez après Ramadan"; enfin, la télévision s'efforce de présenter ses "meilleurs" programmes, films et feuilletons, pour distraire le public.

A l'origine, Ramadan était conçu comme une période de sacrifice, d'endurance et d'austérité, qui rapproche, ou plutôt rappelle à l'homme musulman les valeurs spirituelles.

Aujourd'hui, il semble que nous nous sommes beaucoup éloignés de cette définition. Peut-être ferions-nous bien d'y réfléchir, et de revenir aux sources, sous une forme adaptée à notre époque.

Vous écrivez?

Si la plume vous démange, que vous écrivez en français... "Le Jourdain" vous ouvre ses pages hebdomadaires. Vos idées de sujets, locaux et régionaux, comme vos suggestions, y sont les bienvenues.

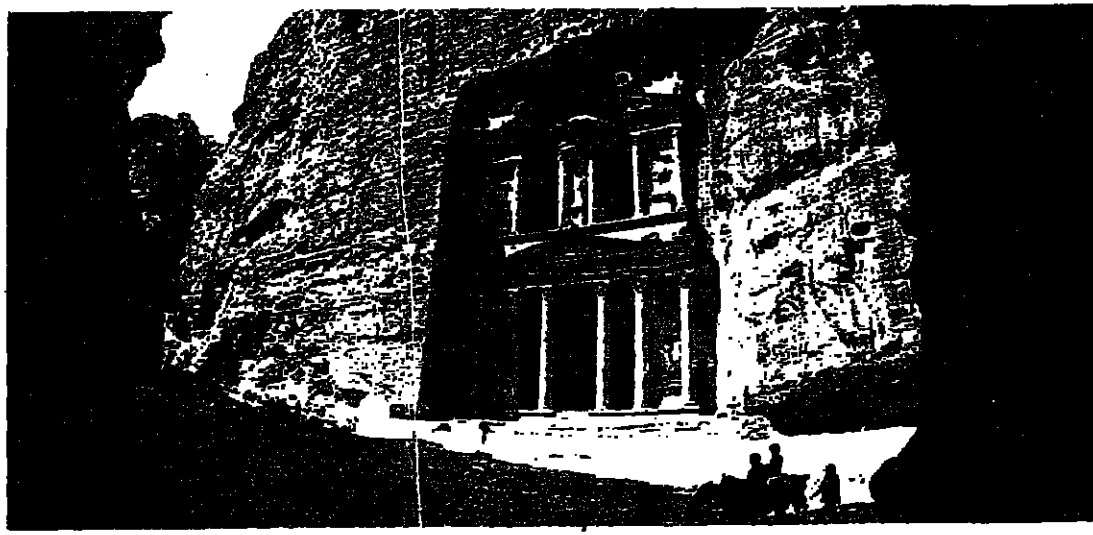
Alain Renon, French section, Jordan Times. PO Box 6710. Tél: 667171.

345 millions de dollars de bénéfice en 1988

Faire rimer tourisme avec rentrée en devises

Confrontée à une sérieuse crise économique, le royaume hachémite tente de stimuler son tourisme.

Un secteur désormais considéré comme «vital» pour assurer au pays ses nécessaires rentrées de devises.



Petra, l'une des valeurs sûres du tourisme jordanien.

«Nous tenterons, au cours des trois prochaines années, de doubler nos revenus touristiques, estimés en 1988 à 345 millions de dollars, soit 16% des rentrées en devises de la Jordanie». Le ministre du Tourisme, Abdel Karim Kabariti, ne peut être plus clair. Le secteur, dont il a la charge, est lucratif. Et crise économique oblige, il faut qu'il le devienne encore plus.

Pour réaliser ce projet plutôt ambitieux, le ministre estime devoir encourager le secteur privé à assumer une plus grande responsabilité dans le développement d'une activité, désormais considérée comme «vitale» pour l'économie du pays. «Le tourisme et les transferts de fonds des émigrés [plus de 350.000 Jordanien vivent à l'étranger] représentent nos principales ressources en devises», souligne-t-il. En clair, le ministre a décidé de «soutenir» ouvertement les investissements du secteur privé, «qui a démontré qu'il était plus capable» que le gouvernement dans la promotion du tourisme, selon les propres termes d'Abdel Karim Kabariti, qui a par ailleurs annoncé au début de la semaine la Création d'un Conseil pour le développement du tourisme (CDT).

Le CDT est ainsi formé de représentants d'organismes privés, dont des propriétaires d'hôtels, d'agences de voyages, ainsi que de responsables de la compagnie aérienne nationale et de l'Agence américaine de développement international (USAID). C'est lui qui prendra en charge la promotion touristique du royaume hachémite, sur la base d'un budget de 500.000 dollars.

lars, assurés par le ministère, la Royal Jordanian (RJ) et l'USAID. Auparavant, l'Etat assumait seul cette fonction, avec une enveloppe limitée à 100.000 dollars.

Obstacles

Mais les efforts des autorités risquent de se heurter à une conjoncture plutôt difficile et aux réserves, émises à plusieurs reprises par les mouvements fondamentalistes musulmans. Responsables et agents du secteur privé craignent en effet que les tensions régionales, en regain depuis l'immigration massive des juifs soviétiques en Israël, tout comme l'influence croissante des religieux conservateurs dans le pays, timent l'image de stabilité de la Jordanie et diminuent par conséquent l'afflux de touristes. «Les éventuelles répercussions

de cette immigration et le bruit fait autour de la question à l'étranger les ont déjà découragés», assure l'un des quarante agents de voyages jordanien. Selon lui, les intégristes jouent un rôle tout aussi dissuasif, en faisant campagne contre les boîtes de nuit et les lieux d'amusement. Ces derniers sont «nécessaires pour attirer les touristes, notamment ceux des pays du Golfe», insiste-t-il. Sous l'influence des députés islamistes, le gouvernement de Mouad Badrane a ainsi interdit en janvier le service de boissons alcoolisées à bord des avions de la RJ. Une mesure, qui selon la compagnie, entrainera un manque à gagner annuel de 5 millions de dollars.

Tout en soulignant que le slogan «Jordanie: un havre de sécurité et de stabilité» constitue le «capital le plus promotionnel» du tourisme national, M. Kabariti minimise l'impact des exigences islamistes. «Ils se sont cantonnés jusqu'à maintenant dans des prises de positions plutôt théoriques et ne semblent pas disposés à adopter des mesures concrètes afin d'imposer leur point de vue», remarque-t-il.

Le porte-parole des 20 élus de l'association des Frères musulmans, Abdel Latif Arabiyate explique pour sa part qu'en «dépit de son soutien au développement de l'industrie touristique», la Confrérie insiste sur la nécessité de conserver «une image décente» de la Jordanie. «L'essentiel n'est pas de faire de l'argent, mais de préserver les traditions et la dignité du pays», lache-t-il. Reste à savoir le contenu que les Frères entendent donner à ces valeurs.

Saad Hattar.

Corruption

Neuf affaires devant la justice

Six juges, investis des pouvoirs de procureurs généraux, ont entamé hier une série d'investigations judiciaires relatives à neuf affaires de corruption remontant au gouvernement de Zeid Rifai. Quatre jours seulement après leur examen par la Chambre des députés.

Chose promise, chose due. Cheval de bataille de la plupart des candidats pendant la campagne des élections législatives de novembre dernier, la lutte contre la corruption au sein de l'appareil d'Etat est entrée hier dans sa phase active. Neuf cas ont été confiés par le ministère de la Justice à six juges, agissant en qualité de procureurs généraux. Les magistrats ont été chargés d'enquêter sur les éventuelles suites judiciaires à donner à ces affaires, conformément au vœu exprimé mardi par la Chambre des députés. Les parlementaires s'étaient en effet prononcés, à la suite d'un vote à huis clos, pour le transfert à la justice de neuf dossiers, contenus dans un rapport de la commission des Finances.

Parmi eux, figure la vente secrète et illicite du tiers des réserves en or du Trésor en août et septembre 1988, sous le gouvernement de Zeid Rifai. Les autres cas instruits concernent plusieurs projets, alloués sans offre d'adjudication, telles les constructions du parc d'attraction de Jubelha, du complexe immobilier d'Abu Nuseir, ou encore de la prison de Swaga. Sont également éping-

Universités de Lyon, du Yarmouk et d'Amman

Vers plus de coopération

Le vice-président de l'université française Lumière Lyon II et le directeur de son département d'études arabes, achèvent aujourd'hui une visite d'une semaine en Jordanie. Une visite de travail, qui a donné lieu à la signature de deux projets de coopération avec les universités du Yarmouk et de Jordanie.

Mission accomplie. Arrivés en Jordanie le 17 mars pour étudier les opportunités de coopération avec les facultés du Yarmouk et de Jordanie, le vice-président de l'université de Lyon II, Alain Bony, et le directeur de son département d'études arabes, Joseph Di Chy, reprennent aujourd'hui le chemin de la France avec en poche deux protocoles d'accord.

«Ces mémorandums prévoient notamment: de courtes visites mutuelles de responsables de nos établissements respectifs et des échanges d'enseignants de plus longue durée», précise Alain Bony. Objectif if de cette première phase: permettre dans un deuxième temps à six universités d'envoyer des étudiants en France et en Jordanie.

«Nous prévoyons de leur proposer des cours d'été, ou même de les intégrer, pour des périodes variables, dans les cursus normaux. Avec la possibilité de faire valider ces voyages dans leurs cycles d'étude», ajoute-t-il. A Lyon, les jeunes Jordanien pourr ainsi être accueillis, soit au Centre international d'étude du

français (CIEF), soit directement à la faculté. «Ces accords devraient être finalisés en 1991, poursuit Joseph Di Chy, quand seront réglés les problèmes de financements».

L'idée de ces échanges universitaires avait été évoquée dès 1989 par le président du Yarmouk, puis par son homologue de l'université de Jordanie à Amman quelques mois plus tard, lors de leurs passages dans la capitale de la région Rhône-Alpes. En contact étroit avec la région depuis de nombreuses années, via notamment la Maison de l'Orient Méditerranéen, l'université de Lyon a sauté sur l'occasion.

Une occasion, qui devrait d'ailleurs se traduire également pour les chercheurs français par une coopération archéologique avec l'université de Jordanie. «Il s'agit d'un ambitieux programme d'étude exhaustive des châteaux francs et musulmans du royaume, qui devrait s'étendre sur 10 ou 15 ans et mettre à contribution d'autres organismes, tel l'UNESCO», souligne Alain Bony.

A. R.

EN BREF

Bloc. Huit députés jordanien ont formé mardi dernier un nouveau groupement politique à la Chambre, sous le nom de «Bloc indépendant». Il s'agit du quatrième mouvement créé depuis les élections législatives de novembre 1989. Les autres formations sont le Bloc islamiste des Frères musulmans, le Bloc nationaliste et le Regroupement démocratique.

Devises. Le gouverneur de la banque centrale a annoncé lundi à Amman, que les réserves en devises du royaume atteignent actuellement la somme de 380 millions de dollars. Mohammad Naboulsi a notamment précisé qu'elles «étaient de 500 millions de dollars fin décembre» et que cette baisse était due à «l'acquiescement par la Jordanie, à partir du début de l'année, de ses engagements financiers, conformément à l'accord conclu avec le Club de Londres». La dette jordanienne à l'égard de ce dernier, qui regroupe les principaux créanciers privés du pays, s'élève à 1,1 milliard de dollars.

Airbus. La Royal Jordanian (RJ) a pris livraison lundi du premier des six Airbus A-320, qu'elle avait commandés au consortium européen l'an dernier. La compagnie aérienne nationale du royaume devient ainsi la première du Moyen-Orient à être équipée d'un tel appareil. Cliente d'Airbus depuis 1986, la RJ exploite déjà six A-310 et s'est engagée à acheter cinq A-340. Selon Airbus, la compagnie jordanienne compte utiliser ses A-320 pour étendre sa desserte du Moyen-Orient et du Golfe, ainsi que pour diversifier ses liaisons avec l'Europe.

Fonds palestiniens. Le Conseil d'administration du Fonds national palestinien (FNP) s'est réuni vendredi à Bagdad pour étudier notamment les moyens de soutien au soulèvement dans les territoires occupés. Le président du FNP, Joweid al-Ghoussein, a également présenté un rapport sur les mesures à prendre pour combler le déficit du Fonds, dû au retard des pays arabes dans le règlement de leurs contributions financières. Au sommet d'Alger, en 1988 ces derniers s'étaient engagés à verser une aide d'urgence de 128 millions de dollars à l'OLP et une assistance mensuelle de 43 millions en faveur de l'Intifada. M. al-Ghoussein avait récemment indiqué que ce soutien «n'a pas dépassé les 150 millions de dollars» en 1989 et que seuls cinq pays (Arabie Saoudite; Koweït; Emirats; Irak et Libye) «honorent régulièrement leurs engagements financiers».

Message. Yasser Arafat s'adressera «prochainement» aux Israéliens par le canal de la télévision jordanienne captée dans l'Etat hébreu, a annoncé le pacifiste israélien Abbie Nathan dans une interview publiée lundi par «Davar», le quotidien de la centrale syndicale Histadrout. Selon M. Nathan, qui a récemment rencontré les dirigeants de l'OLP à Tunis, Yasser Arafat pourrait prononcer un discours chaleureusement pacifiste à l'adresse de l'opinion israélienne. Il devrait notamment mentionner «qu'il est temps d'abattre les murs de la haine et de la guerre». Sous-titré en hébreu, ce discours sera diffusé dans le cadre d'une émission spéciale de la JTV.

Patriarche. Mgr Torkom Manougian, prélat arménien de nationalité américaine, a été élu jeudi patriarche de Jérusalem. Mgr Manougian remplace à ce poste Mgr Yeghiche Derderian, décédé le 1er février dernier à l'âge de 83 ans. Le patriarche arménien de Jérusalem compte environ 10.000 fidèles, répartis entre Israël, la Ville Sainte, les territoires occupés et la Jordanie, où vivent environ 60% d'entre eux.

Indépendance. Les pays de la Communauté économique européenne (CEE) ont salué jeudi l'accession de la Namibie à l'indépendance et réaffirmé leur «volonté de fournir leur assistance au futur développement économique et social» du nouvel Etat, né dans la nuit de mardi à mercredi derniers. Un Etat d'ores et déjà reconnu par de nombreux pays, dont les Etats-Unis et la France. Paris a notamment invité dès mercredi le président namibien Sam Nujoma à participer au prochain sommet franco-africain, qui se tiendra en juin à Vittel (Est de la France).

Elections. Quelque 7,6 millions de Hongrois sont appelés à se rendre aux urnes aujourd'hui, pour les premières élections législatives libres organisées dans le pays depuis 40 ans. Ils ont à choisir 386 députés parmi les candidats de douze partis. Selon les observateurs, le scrutin devrait déboucher sur la formation d'une coalition de centre-droit pour succéder au gouvernement actuel, dirigé par les anciens communistes convertis au socialisme depuis l'automne. Le basculement à droite, s'il se produisait, serait le deuxième du genre, après la victoire dimanche dernier en RDA de l'Alliance pour l'Allemagne; coalition soutenue par le parti du chancelier ouest-allemand Helmut Kohl.

Collabo. La justice française a ouvert mercredi à Paris une enquête pour crime contre l'humanité à l'encontre de René Bousquet, 80 ans, qui fut secrétaire général de la police nationale sous l'occupation nazie. Des associations de déportés ou d'enfants de déportés lui reprochent d'avoir concouru à la rafle dite du «Vel d'hiv» en juillet 1942, au cours de laquelle 13.000 juifs, dont 4.000 enfants, furent arrêtés par les autorités françaises puis livrés aux nazis, qui les déportèrent dans les camps de concentration. Trente d'entre eux seulement survécurent. E 1979, Bousquet avait été contraint de démissionner du conseil d'administration de la banque d'Indochine et de Suez à la suite d'accusations lancées dès cette époque par l'avocat «chasseur de nazis» Serge Klarsfeld.

Contrat. La société française ETPM, filiale du groupe GTM-Entrepote, vient de recevoir de la compagnie nationale de pétrole iranienne (NIOC) une lettre d'intention pour la reconstruction du terminal pétrolier de l'île de Kharg, le plus important du monde. Situé dans le nord du Golfe Persique, il avait été détruit au cours de la guerre irano-irakienne. Les travaux, dont le montant s'élève à 230 millions de dollars, devront être exécutés en 24 mois en collaboration avec une entreprise iranienne.

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Heure d'été La France

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Depuis une dizaine d'années, les Européens ont pris l'habitude d'avancer leurs montres d'une heure au début de l'été, pour profiter plus longtemps de la lumière du Soleil et, donc, faire des économies d'énergie. Un procédé simple et astucieux, qui semblait être passé sans difficultés dans le mode de vie de chacun. Etti pourtant...

Le gouvernement français s'apprête à demander à la CEE d'examiner la suppression de l'heure d'été, dont il fut l'initiateur. Une décision prise sur la base d'un rapport établi par une députée socialiste, Ségolène Royal, qui souligne les nombreux inconvénients «suscités par ce changement d'horaire».

A son avis, une partie importante de la population française pâtit plus qu'elle ne profite de l'heure d'été. Ainsi des enfants, des agriculteurs, des travailleurs matinaux et des personnes âgées. D'autre part, le rapport estime que les économies d'énergie provenant de cette mesure sont aujourd'hui devenues contestables avec le développement du nucléaire.

هذه هي الساعة الجديدة

Philippe Noiret, acteur européen 1989

Un cancre devenu star

Il a commencé sur les planches il y a 40 ans et tourné 101 films. En trente ans de cinéma, il a campé une foule de personnages. A 59 ans, l'acteur français Philippe Noiret vient d'être sacré "acteur européen de l'année 1989".

Né en 1931 dans le nord de la France, Philippe Noiret n'avait rien du profil de comédien. Il s'est lancé dans ce métier, parce qu'il ne savait rien faire d'autre. «J'étais un cancre renvoyé de tous les lycées, se souvient-il. Trois fois recalé au baccalauréat! Il me fallait donc trouver un emploi n'exigeant pas de diplôme. Artiste donc! Ne sachant ni écrire, ni peindre, ni sculpter, j'ai choisi la comédie».

Apprenti-acteur à 20 ans, il réussit à se faire engager au Théâtre National Populaire du prestigieux Jean Vilar. Il y restera 8 ans. A jouer les barbons, la plupart du temps. Au rythme de 10 heures par jour. 11 mois sur 12. «Ce fut une école formidable, qui m'a laissé le souvenir d'un accomplissement, d'un épanouissement», raconte Noiret.

Il a 25 ans, quand commence pour lui l'aventure cinématographique. Il tourne alors dans «La Pointe courte» d'Agnès Varda, l'une des réalisatrices précurseurs de la «nouvelle vague». Quatre ans plus tard, il conquiert le grand public avec le personnage cocasse de «Tonton» dans «Zazie dans le Métro» de Louis Malle.

Dès lors, il enchaîne film sur film: «Thérèse Desqueyroux» de Franju (1962); «La Vie de Château» de Rappeneau (1965); «Alexandre le Bienheureux» d'Yves Robert (1968), qui en fait un savoureux épiqueur campagnard. Il interprète ensuite le père tourmenté d'un fils meurtrier dans «L'Horloger de Saint-Paul» de Tavernier (1974), puis un magistrat dans «Le Juge et l'Assassin», du même réalisateur (1976). Ce dernier lui confie encore le rôle du Régent, humain et sans illusion, dans «Que la Fête Commence» (1976).

Sa performance, au côté de Romy Schneider dans «Le Vieux Fusil» d'Enrico, lui vaut le César du meilleur acteur en 1977. Le talent multiforme de Noiret retient l'attention bien au-delà des frontières hexagonales. Le maga-

zine américain «Times» va ainsi jusqu'à le proclamer «meilleur acteur du monde» la même année.

Les réalisateurs étrangers eux aussi se tournent vers lui. Il tourne pour Litvak dans «La Nuit des Généraux» et pour de Sica dans «Sept fois Femmes». Hitchcock l'engage pour «L'Étau», Cukor pour «Justine», Ferreri pour «La Grande Bouffe». Il joue encore dans «La Famille» de Scollia et dans «Les Lunettes d'Or» de



Plus de 75% de sa population vit en ville

La France, pays de citadins

Révolution industrielle oblige, la France a connu en deux siècles des mutations démographiques d'une ampleur exceptionnelle. Nation rurale au XVIII^e siècle, elle est devenue un pays de citadins. Plus de trois Français sur quatre habitent aujourd'hui dans les villes.

En deux cents ans, la France n'a pas seulement changé. Elle s'est radicalement transformée. Sa population a non seulement doublé, passant de 28 millions à quelque 56 millions, mais elle a

Montaldo. Ses deux dernières apparitions à l'écran ont encore fait mouche. Qu'il s'agisse de «La Vie et Rien d'Autre» de Tavernier ou «Cinema Paradiso» de l'italien Tornatore, dans lequel il campe un vieux projectionniste dans une petite ville de Sicile.

Noiret raffole des personnages fragiles. Quant à son métier, il estime que sa difficulté réside dans la recherche entre une certaine confiance en soi et le doute nécessaire pour rester lucide. «La virtuosité ne doit jamais éloigner de l'essentiel, qui est la vérité du spectacle, l'émotion, la sincérité», insiste-t-il.

Camille Hérisson.

Live

"Arafat, un destin pour la Palestine"

Une nouvelle biographie du numéro un de l'OLP vient de paraître en France aux éditions Renaudot. Écrit par Rémi Favret, journaliste de l'hebdomadaire français «Le Journal du Dimanche», le livre, intitulé «Arafat, un destin pour la Palestine», retrace l'histoire du conflit israélo-arabe à travers celle du leader de la centrale palestinienne.

Cette «étrange épopée d'un fils de marchand de fromages de la banlieue du Caire, happé par un destin national», révèle un homme «secret, pudique, qui parle plus volontiers du fracas des nations que de ses sentiments», assure l'auteur, qui n'a pas résisté au «mythe Arafat». Son récit mêle en effet souvent à l'histoire de l'homme, la légende qu'en racontent ses compagnons de route.

Rémi Favret démontre par ailleurs qu'Arafat, «monstre cynique» pour les Israéliens, «père de la nation, respecté et aimé» pour les Palestiniens, a eu raison de s'entêter. Il a d'abord forcé les pays arabes, puis la communauté internationale, à reconnaître à des degrés divers les droits légitimes du peuple palestinien. (D'après agences)

"Arafat, un destin pour la Palestine" de Rémi Favret. Ed. Renaudot (323 pages). 115 francs.

A L'AFFICHE

FOCUS

La Maison des Bani Hamida

C'est en 1985 que l'organisation humanitaire américaine, «Save the Children», sollicite les femmes de la tribu des Bani Hamida pour organiser et développer le commerce de leurs tapis.

Aujourd'hui, 587 bédouines, réparties dans 12 villages du Mont Bani Hamida à 75 km au sud d'Amman, filent, teignent et tissent la laine de leurs moutons. Il faut en moyenne un mois et demi pour fabriquer un tapis, le tissage proprement dit ne durant qu'une quinzaine de jours.

Toute la matière première est locale, à l'exception des teintures qui viennent des U.S.A., et offrent, par conséquent, un éventail de couleurs très large et moderne.

Chaque village s'est doté de deux superviseurs qui font le lien avec l'équipe d'Amman. Une équipe de sept personnes, qui gère les stocks et les commandes, participe à la création de nouveaux designs et accueil-

le les clients dans «la Maison de Bani Hamida». D'abord installée dans les locaux de «Save the Children», le magasin a déménagé dans une villa spacieuse derrière le 1er cercle, en septembre dernier.

La, près de 500 tapis sont exposés en permanence et sont renouvelés au rythme d'une quarantaine de nouvelles pièces par semaine. Les tapis sont vendus au poids, à un premier prix de 17,5 JD le kilo. Les étrangers sont les principaux acheteurs, mais les Jordaniens, après avoir boudé une production trop traditionnelle à leur goût, sont de plus en plus sensibles à l'effort de modernisation.

Les ventes sont de plus en plus nombreuses et «la Maison des Bani Hamida» semble prête à voler de ses propres ailes à partir de 1991, après 5 ans de collaboration avec «Save the Children».

F.M.

EXPOSITIONS

Peinture. La Fondation Shoman présente les œuvres de sept peintres irakiens: Shaker Hassan al-Saïd; Salim al-Dabagh; Rafi al-Nassiri; Sa'adi al-Ka'bi; Ali Taleb; Mohammad Mahrudin et Ismail Fatah.

Centre culturel et scientifique de la Fondation Shoman (Shamsoun), jusqu'au 4 avril. L'exposition est ouverte tous les jours, sauf le vendredi, de 18h00 à 17h00. Entrée libre.

Peinture. Le peintre palestinien Ahmad Nawash expose ses toiles au centre culturel français. Douleur de l'exil. CCF, jusqu'au 8 avril. Entrée libre.

Peinture. Né à Jérusalem en 1954, Esam Tantawi fait partie des artistes les plus en vue en Jordanie. Il signe une œuvre originale, dans laquelle se mêlent à l'inspiration ses expériences de graphiste et de photographe.



Galerie d'art Alia (premier cercle, Djebel Amman), jusqu'au 1er avril, de 9h00 à 13h30 et de 15h00 à 18h00. Entrée libre. Tél: 639303.

Tissage. En coopération avec l'organisation humanitaire «Save the Children», la tribu des Bani Hamida présente une exposition-vente de tapis traditionnels faits main.

Maison des Bani Hamida (Djebel Amman, près du cinéma Rainbow), jusqu'au jeudi 29 mars de 9h00 à 18h00. Tél: 638696.

THEATRE

«Le Témoin», pièce de théâtre arabe pour les enfants, proposée par l'Association des artistes jordaniens. Grand Théâtre du centre culturel royal, mercredi 28 mars à 16h00. Renseignements au 669262.

PASSEZ-MOI MON FRANCAIS

La rubrique de Flavia Romero

Ballade du temps jadis

Ave, Egeria!

Je reprends le récit de ma ballade au nord du pays. Après Umm-Qais, Umm-el-Jemal. Très vaste caravansérail en pierre noire, où les présences des gens, qui y ont habité, séjourné ou simplement transité, reviennent, impérieuses, se faire sentir.

Je m'assois sur une pierre, appuie le dos et ferme les yeux. La place est peuplée de mille visages, bruns et aigus des Yéménites, étranges et mystérieux des Nabatéens, puis des Caucasiens, des Mongols, des Romains, des Byzantins, des Chinois, des Indiens, des Bédouins, des Arabes, des Parthes...

Les dromadaires blâtent. Il y a mille bruits et mille odeurs. On échange des nouvelles, on discute sur le prix de mille objets merveilleux, qui viennent de loin: bijoux, parfums, épices, armes, soies, cosmétiques. Les chameaux s'abreuvent, les hommes vendent et achètent, font des affaires, s'aiment, se disputent, se séparent à nouveau, dans cette place qui est point d'arrivée et point de départ. Combien de rêves, d'espoirs, d'attentes!

Il me faut faire un grand effort pour me libérer du passé, qui est si présent. Je m'efforce d'ouvrir les yeux. Il y a un troupeau de dromadaires dans l'enceinte. Il me semble qu'ils sont différents de ceux qu'on voit généralement en Jordanie. Bien qu'ils n'aient qu'une bosse, ils ont pourtant toutes les caractéristiques brévilignes des chameaux et le poil plus clair.

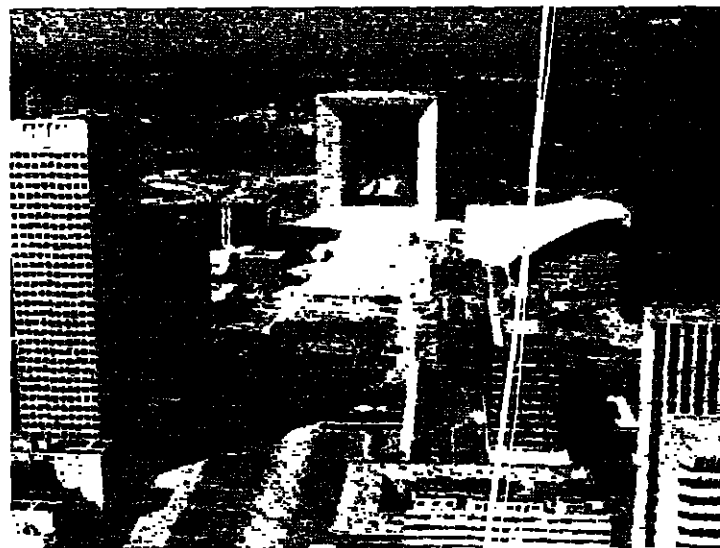
Il y en a deux, tous blancs et minuscules, qui viennent de naître. Je tends ma main, avec un biscuit sec. Les adultes sont intéressés, mais ne s'approchent pas assez pour l'attraper. J'aimerais sentir leurs museaux, doux et chauds. Je suis bête ment imprudente, car les dromadaires peuvent mordre et ils ont de grosses dents. Mais le moment est si magique, que les bêtes doivent s'en rendre compte et ne me feraient jamais de mal. Pour cette fois encore, j'ai conservé mes doigts.

A contre-cœur, je quitte la place. Il est tombé une petite pluie et tout est mouillé. Entre Umm-el-Jemal et Azraq, il y a des failles d'eau souterraines qui ne sont pas très profondes. Le sol, donc, se sature très vite. On a l'impression de rouler sur un marécage. Je suis sur le haut plateau et, par la pluie, chaque grain de sable se libère de la poussière impalpable qui le recouvre une grande partie de l'année. Et brille de l'éclat propre à la roche à laquelle il appartient.

C'est une symphonie de vibrations, qui deviennent lumière et couleur. Des pourpres, bruns, rouges, jaunes, bleus, dans un paysage peint à l'acquatint. Quel orientaliste a jamais su faire vibrer ses couleurs de façon telle à rendre la même intensité de lumière, en plus toujours changeante avec l'instant qui passe? Leurs tristes étendues jaunâtres sont infiniment ennuyeuses, à mon avis. Peut-être seuls les impressionnistes auraient pu donner, un peu, l'idée de ce que cette lumière signifie dans ce pays.

Je me suis engouffrée, tête première, à la vitesse de la lumière, dans toutes ces couleurs qui deviennent photons, étincelles, étoiles. Pourquoi fume-t-on du hashish, boit-on du vin, pour se sentir ivre? Il suffirait de s'ouvrir, de se laisser aller aux suggestions de la nature. Est-ce comme ça que la sensibilité extrême des grands mystiques leur a donné la force de dire et de vivre leur vérité?

Assez pour aujourd'hui, j'ai la main fatiguée. Vale, Egeria!



Le quartier de la Défense, aux portes de Paris, témoigne de l'essor spectaculaire des villes en France.

dans la capitale, où la plupart des entreprises ont installé leurs sièges. Dans le même temps, les banlieues se sont transformées en immenses zones industrielles, à la faveur du réseau ferroviaire construit au XIX^e siècle et disposé en étoile autour de Paris.

De même la région Rhône-Alpes et sa «capitale» Lyon ont vu leur population tripler, passant de 1,8 million à plus de 5 millions, avec l'installation de complexes industriels dans la vallée du fleuve Rhône. Quant à la région Provence-Côte d'Azur (sud-est du pays), qui n'atteignait que le million d'habitants en 1790 (la ville de Nice, non encore française à l'époque, incluse), elle en affiche quatre fois plus, pétrochimie et tourisme obligent.

Exode rural

Toutes les régions françaises n'ont pas bénéficié d'un tel essor, loin s'en faut. Ainsi du Sud-Ouest, du Centre et de l'Ouest, privés d'industrialisation soutenue, qui ont souffert d'un très fort exode rural. La région Médi-

former de ses agglomérations. C'est en particulier le cas de Paris. En 1790, la ville ne comptait que 547.000 habitants, alors qu'elle en totalise actuellement quelque 2 millions, intra muros, et plus de 9 millions, si l'on englobe son agglomération. De même Lyon ou Marseille, qui abritaient l'une et l'autre un peu plus de 100.000 habitants à la Révolution et qui en comptent respectivement 400.000 et 900.000. Leurs agglomérations dépassent allègrement le million depuis quelques années.

A la fin du XVIII^e siècle, ces trois cités étaient les seules du pays à dépasser les 100.000 habitants. On en dénombre 36 à la fin du XIX^e siècle. L'urbanisation de la France est encore plus évidente si l'on compare le nombre des villes de plus de 20.000 habitants. En 1790, on en recensait 28. Il y en avait 389 en 1989.

Rémy Arnaud.

(*) Est citadine en France, la population des communes de plus de 2.000 habitants.

CINEMA

It's a wonderful life, de Frank Capra, avec James Stewart, Henry Travers et Donna Reed (1946).

Un homme, accablé de soucis, s'apprête à se suicider, estimant sa vie inutile. Un ange lui démontre le contraire en lui montrant ce que serait devenue sa ville s'il n'avait pas existé. Centre américain, dimanche 25 mars à 19h00 et jeudi 29 mars à 15h00 (en anglais).

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Dès lundi et durant tout le mois de Ramadan: un seul long métrage quotidien à 20h30. A partir de mardi: semaine de la comédie américaine.

Dimanche 25: Wall Street; Salvador; Hanna and her sisters; Pottergeist; Francis.

Lundi 26: No mercy, de Richard Pierce, avec Kim Basinger et Richard Gere (1989).

Quand un policier se met en tête de venger lui-même la mort d'un de ses collègues.

Mardi 27: It's a mad, mad, mad, mad world, de Stanley Kramer, avec Spencer Tracy, Jimmy Durante, Mickey Rooney, Buster Keaton... (1963).

Un policier décide de se transformer en cambrioleur pour aider sa fille à se marier. Trois heures de comédie, en compagnie d'une quarantaine de stars américaines. Un peu long.

Mercredi 28: Avant, de Billy Wilder, avec Jack Lemmon et Juliet Mills (1972).

En allant chercher la dépouille mortelle de papa, décédé dans un accident, fiston découvre la drôle de vie de son défunt père... Moyen.

Jeudi 29: Victor Victoria, de Blake Edwards, avec Julie Andrews, James Garner et Robert Preston, d'après le film de Reinhold Schünzel (1982).

Paris 1934. Après une audition ratée au cabaret «Chez Lui», Victoria Grant erre affamée dans les rues. Elle fait la connaissance d'un homosexuel abandonné par son amant, qui décide d'en faire une vedette en la travestissant. Intelligent et hilarant.

Vendredi 30: The purple rose of Cairo, de Woody Allen, avec Mia Farrow et Jeff Daniels (1984).

En pleine crise des années 1930, Cecilia ne trouve refuge qu'au cinéma, où elle voit et revêt «La Rose pourpre du Caire», un mélo exotique. Un jour, l'acteur principal sort de l'écran pour rencontrer la jeune femme... Tendre et émouvant.

Samedi 31: 1941, de Steven Spielberg, avec Dan Aykroyd, Ned Beatty et Christopher Lee (1979).

Juste après Pearl Harbor, les tribulations d'un équipage de sous-marin japonais, terrorisant une petite ville américaine qui prend pour Hollywood.

Films en version originale. Route de l'université de Jordanie, première à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis première à gauche. Le ciné-club se trouve à environ 300m, sur la gauche.

THEATRE

«Le Témoin», pièce de théâtre arabe pour les enfants, proposée par l'Association des artistes jordaniens. Grand Théâtre du centre culturel royal, mercredi 28 mars à 16h00. Renseignements au 669262.

JEUX

Mots croisés

Par Florence Montel

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.

1: jeu; 2: dien de la musique; il a fait brûler Rome; 3: capturées; fin de messe; 4: ville flamande; 5: a brimé; a fait pas; 6: ou y circule; rongeur; 7: adjectif possessif; recouvre l'oreiller; 8: à suivre; 9: intervalle de musique; supportent les balles de golf; 10: n'avont pas; spécialité.

(Solution le semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N. 2

Horizontalement.

1: ballerines; 2: oraison; 3: ut; 4: épices; 5: efflu; 6: vif; 7: écor; 8: écor; 9: écor; 10: écor.

Verticalement.

A: bouleversé; B: artificiel; C: affres; D: l'ia; E: espérons; F: roi; G: incantes; H: élé; I: élé; J: sceteros.

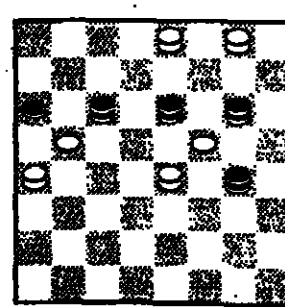
LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

URSS-VATICAN. L'Union Soviétique et le Vatican ont instauré le 15 mars des «rapports officiels», en préalable à l'établissement de relations diplomatiques. En vertu de l'accord, le Saint-Siège enverra prochainement à Moscou un nonce apostolique avec «rang personnel», tandis que le gouvernement soviétique mandatera à Rome un ambassadeur extraordinaire. Cette décision fait suite à la rencontre historique entre Jean-Paul II et Mikhaïl Gorbatchev, le 1er décembre dernier au Vatican.

JUMELAGE. Marseille, deuxième ville de France, et son homologue égyptienne, Alexandrie, viennent de consacrer leur jumelage. Les responsables des deux cités ont l'intention de s'associer dans la réalisation de projets urbains. Le maire de Marseille a également exprimé l'espoir que la langue française serve de lien entre les deux villes. Déjà en 1826, l'Egyptien Rifaat al-Tahtawi, envoyé en France par Mehmet Ali pour y «explorer la civilisation occidentale», avait noté la ressemblance de la cité phocéenne avec Alexandrie. A cette différence près, écrivait-il, que «les rues de Marseille sont beaucoup plus larges et permettent la circulation des attelages dans les deux sens». Il y avait aussi remarqué la présence de nombreux Egyptiens, définitivement installés en France au retour de l'expédition de Bonaparte.

DAMES

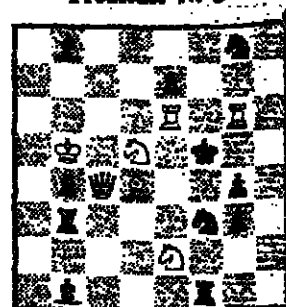
Problème N. 3



Les Blancs gagnent en six coups.

ECHecs

Problème N. 3



Mit avec les blancs en deux coups.

Solution du problème N. 2:

B. 11-7; N. 4-11; B. 12-15; N. 19-12; B. 17-13; N. 10-26; B. 18-21; N. 1-19; B. 21-23.

Solution du problème N. 2:

Cd4-c5.

كلاهما في الـ ١٩٩٠

Books and books everywhere but life is tough for university students

THE SECOND semester is coming to an end but most textbooks for students at the University of Jordan have not arrived yet. The books that are available are too expensive, beyond the reach of the average student. Officials blame high cost of imported books and bookshops complain of unsold stock while students themselves say the responsibility lies with the university administration and professors as well as private importers of books. **Saeeda Khamis** summarises the situation:

AMMAN — Bookshops, or "libraries" as they are called in local parlance, are only a natural feature around any institution of higher education, but there is a marked difference here at Amman near the University of Jordan; they make more money with their photocopies than by selling pens and notebooks. How and why? The answer is simple: The non-availability of essential text books makes it incumbent on the students to photocopy the rare ones that are available.

Many students say they end up spending most of their pocket money and their time on photocopying. "Between lectures and during my free time, I cannot think but of photocopying; it is really frustrating when the photocopying machines at the campus are overcrowded and one has to leave the university to do it," Amineh Al Ashi of the English department said. "Moreover," she added, "it is frustrating not to find any book and to have to photocopy bits and pieces from any text book."

However, students seem to be not the only ones to suffer. Professors also complain of non-availability of essential books and attribute part of the problem to what they describe as the inefficiency of the university's bookstore, operated by a private contractor under a concession, which in turn blames the teaching staff of not preparing lists of required books well in advance.

A professor in the Faculty of Arts criticised the overall system. "For two consecutive years, I have not been able to get any book, and the students keep photocopying the material from several books... leaving a gap in the daily system and creating a state of chaos," he said.

Negligence of teachers

Fadi Sharbi, manager of the university's campus bookstore, blames "teaching staff's negli-

gence to submit a list of the required books before the beginning of the semester" for the shortcoming.

"Professors should give us lists of required books at least three months before the semester begins," Sharbi told the Jordan Times. "This will enable us to initiate the process of import in time for the students to have the books before the actual courses begin," he said. "Most of the professors' lists do not arrive on time, and sometimes they do not arrive at all. And students blame us for non-availability of books. How can we import books in time unless we know which ones to order? In addition, sometimes books are out of stock and professors do not give us time to reorder; they just want the books quickly."

"Students keep nagging us with the same question, asking whether a particular book has arrived or not. There seems to be no way to make them understand that it is not our fault, and that it is the professor himself who did not order or he was late in delivering the list," he added.

A group of students at the Faculty of Arts and the science department complained that the professors provide them with a list of textbooks scheduled for a certain course without paying attention to availability or price. "Sometimes," said one of the students, "we have to appear for the second-term examination with almost no material in hand."

Two students from the Faculty of Nursing complained about the high costs of their textbooks. Twice in a row, the students were obliged to pay JD 31 each for two books.

High costs

Sharbi says the bookstore offers an 11 per cent discount on all books. "Many times we try to warn the teachers of the high cost of the books they want; yet some of them insist on the same order," Sharbi



The bookstore in the University of Jordan campus complains that it has ended up piles of unsold books; either the books are too expensive for the students or they are not the right ones (photo by Saeeda Khamis)

said. "Little regard is given to the fact that the same contents appear in two different books — for instance Basic Genetics; one book cost JD 21, while Principles of Genetics costs JD 6.750. In essence, the contents of both are the same."

Consequently, he explained, students tend to photocopy expensive books from the professor, leaving piles of unsold books in the store, leading to "substantial losses."

Mahmoud Al Samra, president of the university, admits that some of the teaching staff are negligent in sending their lists to the bookstore in time.

"Professors must not oblige the students to buy books which are not available in the bookstore or in the local market," he said. As for the high costs of books, the university

stipulates that the distributor import books specialised for students; and they are the cheapest of all.

"Yet, one must take into consideration that nowadays book prices are high due to the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar and the enormous increase of the cost of papers," the university president said.

In a leaflet issued recently at the university, student organisations, represented by Badawi Bitar, demanded that the university administration take over the entire book supply system since, it said, the private-owned bookstore within the campus did not protect the interests of the students and monopolised the trade. But Samra said the university administration could not comply

with the call. "We were in charge of the bookshop in the beginning, but the experience ended in failure and we lost tens of thousands of dinars."

According to the president, the university's budget is limited, "and we can't afford another loss." However, he said, if the administration finds that the contractor is "manipulating or monopolising it will annul the contract and launch legal proceedings against him."

A suggested solution

Mohammad Adnan Al Bakheet, vice president of the university, said he was acutely aware of the problem of text books since he has served as head of the library for some years. "I admit there is a problem and I know its dimension, and I see how much trouble the students take in order to get text books," he said.

"The students should form a committee entrusted with the solving the problem of text books," he said. "The committee's main task should be collecting old books from students. These books should be sold to new students at low prices. In some cases, photocopies could be made and bound as original books."

"The second essential thing is that departments must be urged to send their lists to the bookstore six months in advance in order to solve the other part of the problem," he said.

Another major point raised by students was that many professors insist that books authored by them be part of the curriculum, thus obliging the students to buy them. "In theory, this is unethical since university regulations stipulate that professors should not use their own books as the formal accepted basic material for teaching," said a commerce department student. "There are many books on the same subject, but the professor decides that his book should be the only material for the examination," added the student.

When this complaint was brought to his attention, Samra said any professor following such a practice should be brought before a disciplinary committee. "The students should file complaints in this regard with the dean of student affairs and we will certainly follow them up and adopt the necessary action," he said.



There are enough libraries in Jordan, and the Jordan Library Association says that the public awareness of how to properly use them should be increased (File photo)

Libraries — inevitable hazard for some, vital for others

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Walk into any library in Jordan. The sight is quite impressive; men and women of all ages appear engrossed in their material, other people queuing and checking out more books than they can carry, and others scanning the shelves from top to bottom, not to mention those hooked on the computers or catalogue files.

But, taking a closer look, a boy in his middle teens is heard complaining to his school friend, "I hate libraries. I can't wait until my exams are over; then I don't have to see a library for a long time."

This young boy, like many boys and girls, uses the libraries only when he has a school assignment.

"What the public does not understand is the importance of the role of libraries to the society," says Anwar Akrouh, president of the Jordan Libraries Association (JLA). It is one of the key places for advancement through research, he adds.

Through JLA activities Akrouh hopes to change this mentality into making people take advantage of the extensive uses of a library.

So what does JLA do? Since its establishment in 1963, JLA has fought hard to create an awareness throughout the society. With its current 595 members spread through 125 organisations, the association has been developing library services by improving standards. This means a

wide selection of subjects for all ages, periodicals and languages, etc., but Akrouh could not say how many books there were in each subject category.

"That is one of our several objectives," Akrouh said. JLA will be conducting surveys to determine what books are needed, what is already in the country and to know where Jordan stands in the field of books, he said.

According to Akrouh, JLA is also establishing good relations with international and Arab firms so that the flow of books, publications and translations remain a two-way traffic.

Through its relationship with outside associations, JLA is able to participate in book exhibitions in the Arab World where "we are able to show our publications," according to Akrouh. In 1965 a "message of library" was published, which was the first in the Arab World and was considered a major source for library and library science, he said.

Another important publication was a translation of "Anglo-American Cataloguing," which was seen as the Bible of a librarian. Additionally, "Introduction to Library and Information Science," which concentrated on technical services in a library, was published.

There must be an awareness of the librarians themselves to be able to encourage awareness amongst the population, Akrouh says. JLA thus gives specialised training courses to

trainees. Over 175 trainees are enrolled to take the course for technical services, Akrouh says.

Although Akrouh does not have any statistics about the number of libraries and their efficiency, "the number is very little in comparison with the number of municipalities."

According to Akrouh, JLA is trying to overcome the problem by establishing more libraries throughout Jordan and donating a copy of every book published by JLA to each library. "In this manner, we would also be supporting Jordanian writers," he adds.

Another mission of the JLA is to translate "online searching" which is considered of great importance and was confirmed by a study tour in Baghdad. Akrouh said that JLA is trying to push for copyright protection and write a draft "library legislation" to organise the profession.

One of the most important aims is to resume a national bibliography which was started in 1979 but was stopped in 1985. "Now, we have begun to collect information since 1986, hoping to publish the bibliography in 1991," Akrouh says.

Is this enough to make people more interested in reading and in frequenting libraries? Although it may take a long time, Akrouh hopes that JLA's efforts in cooperation with public, university and special libraries, will contribute to enhancing the awareness of the population towards reading and using libraries.

Jordan's 'adopted' school class in U.S. seeks penpals here

EVERY year the Jordan Information Bureau participates in the Washington "Embassy Adoption Programme" through which Jordan "adopts" a sixth grade public school class to introduce them to the history, land and people of the Kingdom. The teachers are provided with a variety of printed and visual materials about Jordan and meetings are held with the class to talk to the students about life in Jordan and the Arab World. Following is a letter that the Jordan Times received from the Kingdom's adopted class this year:

Dear Children of Jordan,

This year our sixth grade class has been "adopted" by Jordan, so that we can learn all about your country. The Jordan Information Bureau in Washington has provided our teacher, Mrs. Greene, with magazines, books, posters and photographs of Jordan, and every week we have a special class about the history, culture and traditions of your country. We are even learning the Arabic alphabet and have been taught how to write our names in Arabic.

We are writing to you now to see if we can have some pen pals in Jordan. We are between 11 and 12 years old and would love to correspond with Jordanian children of our age, in English of course! We want to tell you all about our life here and learn from you all about your life there.

Please write soon to the address below.

With all best wishes,

The Students of Mrs. Carrie Greene
Syphax Elementary School
Half and "N" Streets, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024
U.S.A.



Students included in the embassy adoption programme are given a taste of the culture and various other aspects of life in the adopting country

Embassy adoption programme receives American recognition

THE EMBASSY Adoption Programme, sponsored by the Washington Performing Arts Society since 1974, has been recognised by the U.S. Office of Education as an outstanding programme for 1987-88. In addition, the programme was a finalist in a national competition sponsored by the National Council of Social Studies, as one of two outstanding social studies programmes in D.C. public schools.

The programme coordinates the "adoption" of sixth grade students in D.C. public schools, by one of 47 host countries. Films, printed materials and guest speakers acquaint the classes with the country and its region. At the end of each semester, the Washington Performing Arts Society provides transportation for the children to visit the embassy of their adopted country, where skits, poems and folk dances are given by the children. Mrs. Deerin comments, "This is a unique 'hands-on' opportunity involving the young people directly

in the learning process, and giving them the chance to improve their public speaking skills, artistic talents, and musical abilities. In addition, the programme exposes the students not only to the function of an embassy, but to a culture they would not otherwise be privileged to see close up... a chance to look at worldwide problems from a new perspective." It is interesting to note that many children have also been invited to National Day celebrations, attended cultural performances at the Kennedy Centre, with one class even travelling to their "adopted" country, Czechoslovakia.

Last year Saudi Arabia was the adopted country for the sixth grade class of Mrs. June Gills at Trudell Elementary School at 9th and Igraham Streets, N.W. Embassy representatives visited the class, set up a tent with a Saudi environment, took pictures of each child in their native dress, and taught them how to write their names in Arabic. "This was

an experience in the real social world and the class was fascinated. After the visit the class started to find newspaper stories about Saudi Arabia and her neighbours [which led] to discussions concerning problems in the Middle East, and the involvement of the United States in the Persian Gulf." Principal Katie L. Jones agrees that "it is one of the most interesting and functional programmes [that she has] participated in during recent years in the D.C. Schools."

At the end of the school year, a mini United Nations is held with "ambassadors" representatives from each class debating current issues. For a second year, the Washington Performing Arts Society will provide transportation for 47 Mini U.N. student "ambassadors" to visit the U.N. mission in New York City.

If you would like additional information about the Embassy Adoption Programme, call Susan B. Deering, Director, at 282-2365.

Searching the soul of a Palestinian-American poet/writer in Texas

By Ica Wabbah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — There is some cracking, whizzing and bustling and everybody has a last-minute thing to prepare. The atmosphere is charged, the expectations are running high, the enthusiasm is contagious. It is a first time for everybody; a first time for a school in the Kingdom and 49 teenagers are gathered in the packed classroom, waiting.

The teens are treating it with the seriousness it deserves. It is a soul-to-soul communication via telephone with Washington D.C., with Naomi Shihab Nye, a contemporary poet with roots in the Arab World. The youngsters are students of the National Orthodox School. The enthusiastic guidance of their teacher of English, Rula B. Quawas, and the blessing of Adel Abassi, the school principal, and other school officials made it possible for the "kids" (as Quawas affectionately calls them) to ask, search for symbols and meanings, be shy or inquisitive, and probe into the poetry of Naomi Shihab Nye.

Born of a Palestinian father and an American mother, Nye grew up in Texas where she graduated from Trinity University in San Antonio. She was introduced to the life of a writer early (her father was one of the few Americans of Arab ancestry working as an editor of a major daily newspaper). She chose writing because, as she says, "...nothing else has provided the same discovery, focus or comfort that writing does."

We hear: "I get a beautiful signal," and silence pervades the room. Everybody is intent

on listening, and the questions start flowing:

"Are you proud of being a Palestinian or of being bicultural?" is the first one. "Both" is the answer. Pressed further, Nye admits that being "bicultural" (which in no way would negate being a Palestinian) has always been important to her. "Perhaps being bicultural helped me maintain some sense of 'otherness' or detachment. While I was growing up in the United States, there was a quiet, old-world part of me which stood back and observed."

"How do you feel about the 'intifada'? What do you write about it?" is another question. The answer comes from reading about the 500th Palestinian fallen under bullets, a 13-year-old "sister Ibtisam." The poem is poignant, she touched the point, I feel tears veiling my eyes.

The 17-year olds are mature, critical, reverential aggressive. Questions touch on stylistics (Q: "Why poems without rhyme?" A: "Just because the sounds fit it doesn't mean the meaning fits"), language (Q: "Why is your language at times slang, at others bookish, standard?" A: "Sometimes I feel colloquial, others more poetic. I experiment"), inspiration ("I believe in inspiration. But it doesn't come from outside. I very often begin with tangible things, not ideas. In life we are given so much that when we write we try to give back some of the gifts."), poetic creed (Q: "Do you believe in what you write or do you write to satisfy your readers?" A: "I would never write to satisfy someone if I didn't believe in it. Of

course by being true to yourself you hope for some chain of satisfaction").

Existentialist, practical, idealistic, the questions pour in:

"Do you think a dream must be shared to become reality?" "Did you have difficulties in publishing your works?"

"Do you believe the Indians are the original inhabitants of America?"

It's amazing to know what things trouble the youngsters' minds! Never will I treat them lightly.

Asked if she was exposed to Arabic poetry, Nye hastily answered "yes" and mentioned Tawfic Zayad. In the same vein, but on a more personal note, she was asked if her son would be exposed to the Arabic culture. She said he would as her roots were still here. The poem "Sitti Khadra" talks about her grandmother who still lives in Palestine.

Questions are many but I would quote the writer to best conclude it all:

"It seems all writers are engaged in the building of bridges — from one page to another, from writer to reader. Maybe bicultural writers who are actively conscious of or interested in heritage build another kind of bridge as well, this one between worlds. But it's not like a bridge, really, it's closer, like a pulse. As I sit here in Texas, my grandmother's West Bank village keeps returning to me."

One last word of special thanks from the students to the officials at the American Cultural Centre who through their kindness and support helped build a bridge themselves.

Kuwait approves \$2b petrochemical complex

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's top planners Saturday approved a \$2 billion petrochemical complex aimed at increasing the Gulf state's revenue by boosting exports of refined products.

Officials said the Supreme Planning Council, headed by Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, approved the eight-month project after a three-hour meeting to review final plans.

Diplomats in Kuwait from several industrial nations were closely watching the outcome of Saturday's session. The project is expected to be open to international bidding.

"The council has approved the project," council secretary general Foad Mulla Hussein told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

Officials told Reuters the council, whose endorsement was crucial,

approved the project after Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah addressed questions raised at a meeting earlier this month.

Initial support for the project had already been expressed by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the crown prince, the cabinet and the Higher Petroleum Council, officials said.

The complex will produce low and high density polyethylene, ethylene glycol, polystyrene, styrene monomer, styrene butadiene and aromatics.

Officials said it would spawn several associated industries and reduce Kuwait's dependence on crude exports.

Kuwait, one of the world's largest investors, has an extensive downstream network including five refineries, two of them in Western Europe, and some 5,000

petrol stations in Europe.

Last week it announced the purchase of Mobil Oil Italiana SBA for some \$300 million.

The deal includes a 100,000 barrel per day (b/d) refinery in Naples, an adjoining aromatics plant and about 2,000 service stations, raising Kuwait's share of the Italian distribution network to 10.5 per cent from 3.5 per cent.

Kuwait sells some 40 per cent of its crude as refined products and hopes to join its Gulf Arab ally and OPEC partner Saudi Arabia in building an advanced petrochemical industry.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has spent some \$10 billion on 15 petrochemical plants and two industrial cities to capture between four and five per cent of the world market.

Overseas expansion blurs origin of Japanese cars

SUZUKA, Japan (AP) — Robots resembling elephant trunks and giraffes make their way around half-assembled Hondas, spewing showers of sparks as they weld steel frames and produce a car in just 14 hours.

Only in Japan? No, an identical factory is churning out Hondas in Ohio. Thousands of those U.S.-built Hondas will be shipped to Japan, and thousands more of the Japan-built Hondas will be sold in the United States.

"Global" is the theme in Japan's thriving auto industry. Honda, Toyota and Nissan are building more cars abroad and slowly blurring the national origin of automobiles, historically one of the most powerful symbols of a country's manufacturing might.

The strategy makes sense to Japanese auto companies because it can diffuse trade tensions. The strategy also places manufacturing and assembly closer to buyers, cutting costs. Ultimately, much of the profit still flows back to Japan.

"We do business according to our philosophy of manufacturing products in the market in which they are sold," says Honda senior managing director Shoichiro Iri-

majiri. Localisation of research and production facilities "means they can become new supply bases for Honda's global sales channels."

Honda says it is ready to export U.S.-made Honda to Europe for the first time.

In labour-short Japan, no one grumbles about exporting jobs. To fill labour needs the auto industry must hire part-timers, who can make more than \$2,700 a month. Irimajiri said during a tour of Honda's nine-month-old futuristic factory at Suzuka in central Japan.

The Suzuka plant claims to be Japan's most automated car factory. Individual carriers glide along silently, automatically raising or lowering the cars depending on the work done.

Workers wear white jumpsuits with slogans on the chest — "Aim for Zero Accidents" or "Avoid the Five Assembly Faults."

Later last year, a sister factory built from virtually the same blueprints went on line in Ohio — the latest addition to the so-called "transplant" shops.

Honda, the first Japanese automaker to build cars in the United States, has met with huge success.

Last year Americans bought more Honda Accords — 60 per cent of them U.S.-made — than any other car. In late 1989 Honda was outselling Chrysler in the United States.

Flush with earnings from a booming domestic market, Japanese automakers are aggressively expanding overseas. Japanese production capacity is likely to top one million cars in the United States this year, and in Europe by 1998.

The Japanese are opening or expanding factories in the United States as American automakers lay off thousands of employees and close factories for weeks at a time because they can't sell enough cars.

Toyota forecasts a 32 per cent surge in overseas production this year to 650,000 cars, and Mitsubishi Motors, which operates a joint-venture plant with Chrysler, forecasts overseas production up 33 per cent to 410,000. Honda's production abroad will be up 17 per cent to 525,000. Nissan's up seven per cent to 683,000 and Mazda's steady at 220,000.

Honda and Toyota are following Nissan's lead in building factories in Britain.

OPEC eyes E. Europe

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — As Eastern Europe loosens economic ties to the Soviet Union, it will offer the OPEC nations a promising market for their crude oil, analysts say.

Kuwait and other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) already are eyeing the newly independent Eastern European nations as potential customers for their products.

"They are certainly starting to become interested," said Joseph Stanislaw, managing director of Cambridge Energy Research Associates in Paris.

"It is a natural market for OPEC to go into," he said.

Peter Gignoux, director of the International Energy Department at Shearson Lehman Hutton in London, said: "OPEC is going to be in there marketing the same as everybody else."

The Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer, has long been the dominant supplier of crude to its East Bloc allies.

But analysts expect its tight grip on the market will ease with the expiration next year of its multi-year oil contracts with many of those nations.

In negotiating new accords, analysts said Moscow was likely to raise its prices and demand payment in dollars or other "hard" currency. The East European countries now pay in Soviet roubles, a currency worthless outside the East Bloc, or by bartering equipment and other goods for oil.

"Once they're paying in hard currency, it's a whole new ball game," said Jan Vancous, research director at Planecon, a Washington consulting firm. "They'll start shopping around."

OPEC for the first time has a real shot at competing for the delivery of oil for domestic consumption," he said.

OPEC Secretary General Saburo said in a recent interview that a hard-currency requirement would prompt the countries to "look for convenience — which side can supply them at the best price and quality."

"I look upon Eastern Europe as a big potential (market) for OPEC," said Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi. "They are going to depend less and less on the Soviet Union."

Many predict demand for oil will increase in those countries as they convert from the centrally planned economies of their former communist rulers to the free-market models practiced in the West.

More emphasis may be placed on producing consumer goods. Automobile industries, often ignored in the past, may be targeted for investments. More cars would lead to greater demand for gasoline.

"They must improve their economy... and that means they have to consume more energy," said Chalabi in an interview. "The only way to get that is from oil, and the only way to get that is from OPEC countries."

In a separate interview, Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said, "these countries have no other way — they must improve their consumption."

Pierre Terzian, editor of the Paris-based newsletter Petrosstrategies, said, "the model of consumption will change. There will be more energy consumption in some areas."

The East European countries also may want to line up other oil suppliers in case of disruptions or shortages in the Soviet Union, which is undergoing its own political and economic upheavals.

For example, the southern Azerbaijan region, a recent target of ethnic strife, is a key producer of service equipment for the Soviet oil and gas industry.

Oman aims to boost private sector role

DUBAI (R) — Oman aims to increase the role of its private sector but will maintain state spending to stimulate growth in the short term, the country's finance chief said.

"Government spending is still the major dynamic force for economic activity," said deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, Qais Ibn Abdul Momin Al Zawawi.

"At present the government is studying... what assets could be transferred to the private sector," he said in the latest bi-monthly central bank report.

Zawawi said that to qualify for greater public ownership, companies should be well managed, make a profit, and be registered on the Oman Stock Exchange.

"Government financial resources depend mainly on oil revenues, which make up 80 per cent of the 1990 total revenues," Zawawi said. "Therefore it was essential to base oil revenue estimates on a realistic assumption of oil prices."

He said the government's 1990 budget estimated the average annual price of a barrel of oil at \$15, compared to an actual

\$15.80 last year.

Zawawi said the budget assumed the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would abide by its oil output quotas and that non-OPEC producers, among which Oman plays a leading role, would continue to back OPEC efforts to stabilise prices.

Independent economists believe 1990 average oil prices could be higher than \$15 per barrel, which could cut Oman's predicted budget deficit for the year of 313.4 million riyals (\$814 million), against 407.6 million (\$1.01 billion) in 1989.

A big drop in revenues after an oil price crash in 1986 and a subsequent recession taught the government to err on the side of caution.

The main budget details were announced at the beginning of the year. Budget revenue for 1990 was raised 20.5 per cent to 1.4 billion riyals (\$3.6 billion), with spending raised 9.2 per cent to 1.71 billion (\$4.4 billion).

Last month Oman reported an eight per cent rise in gross national product in the first nine months of 1989 over the same period of 1988, to 2.46 billion riyals (\$6.38 billion).

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Greece raises interest rates

ATHENS (AP) — The Bank of Greece has raised minimum interest on savings accounts from 15 per cent to 16 per cent starting April 1, in a bid to cover payments to the public sector for April, an official announcement said Friday. The central bank said it had also ordered financial institutions to reduce lending and boost their stake in government bonds. Starting April 1 minimum interest on bank loans will rise by one percentage point, representing an increase from 17 per cent to 18 per cent on working capital and 16 to 17 per cent on mid-to-long-term loans. The bank said the moves, which also aimed to ease pressure on the balance of payments, may lead to further rises in interest rates. It said the new interest levels were determined by spiralling public sector deficits estimated at 2.5 trillion drachmas (\$15.6 billion) in 1990 and inflation of more than 14 per cent. From March 31, banks will increase from 39 per cent to 40 per cent the amount of deposits they invest in interest-bearing state bonds.

Iran raises gas reserve estimate

NICOSIA (R) — A senior official has estimated Iran's natural gas reserves at 17 trillion cubic metres, more than 20 per cent above the previous figure. Mohammad Esmail Karachian, managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), gave the new estimate in an interview published in Tehran's Abrar daily and quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA. There was no explanation for the revision from the previous figure of 14 trillion cubic metres for Iran's gas reserves, the world's largest after those of the Soviet Union. Karachian said gas would play a bigger role in providing energy for the domestic market. The switch to natural gas would save Iran badly-needed hard currency by freeing more crude oil for exports. He said under Iran's five-year plan, the NIGC would increase daily gas refining capacity to 128 million cubic metres by 1994 from the present 28 million cubic metres.

Almas applies for NYMEX trade

NEW YORK (R) — A Soviet agency has applied to sell platinum bars on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), exchange officials have said and some traders voiced concern at the development. Almas, the Soviet agency in charge of exporting platinum and palladium, has completed an application to become a NYMEX approved brand and must be approved by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Some traders fear the Soviet Union's bid to deliver metals under NYMEX's futures contracts could damage the marketplace. A futures contract sets the price for a commodity to be delivered at a future date. "The exchange could wind up being a dumping ground for Soviet platinum because NYMEX can offer the USSR a better price than its current partners," said a metal trader. John Brimelow of Keane Securities said the Soviet Union is a significant platinum supplier, providing about 15 per cent of the world market.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, March 24, 1990				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell	French franc	116.2 117.0
U.S. dollar	671.0	675.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	432.0 437.6
Pound sterling	1074.6	1081.0	Dutch guilder	348.2 350.3
Deutschemark	392.0	394.4	Swedish crown	109.6 110.3
Swiss franc	441.9	444.6	Italian lira (for 100)	53.3 53.6
			Belgian franc (for 10)	191.2 192.3

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Mar. 17, '90 and ending Wednesday Mar. 21, '90. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	6578	23559	3.650	3.330	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	47117	74023	1.590	1.570	1,000
Housing Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	150	488	3.350	3.250	1,000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5,000
Bank of Jordan	176	2574	14.620	14.630	5,000
Arab Bank	1270	327700	254.000	255.500	10,000
Jordan National Bank	4100	10517	2.550	2.530	1,000
Arab Banking Corporation Bank (Jordan)	9438	21266	2.410	2.230	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Bank	221	724	3.450	3.200	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	2736	5514	2.000	2.000	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	3451	7824	2.270	2.260	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2,000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	700	665	0.970	0.950	1,000

Insurance and reinsurance

Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan French Insurance	4300	7159	1.640	1.600	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	3059	4420	1.450	1.440	1,000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	3050	5185	1.680	1.700	1,000
Holy Land Insurance	500	1340	2.600	2.700	1,000
Philadelpia Insurance	5000	8500	1.700	1.700	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	100	112	1.070	1.120	1,000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	1300	2210	1.700	1.700	1,000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Ahliah Insurance	3062	5359	1.700	1.750	1,000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Eagle Insurance	2636	6326	2.350	2.400	1,000
Universal Insurance	600	612	1.050	1.000	1,000

Services and industries

General Investments	—	—	—	—	1,000
Amman for Investment and Financial Facilities	—	—	—	—	1,000
Danco for Housing and Investment	—	—	—	—	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	55287	42952	0.770	0.740	1,000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	261950	130052	0.520	0.450	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	151948	96876	0.610	0.600	1,000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajero	—	—	—	—	1,000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordanian Electric Power	2750	3750	1.390	1.350	1,000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab International Hotels	18538	29076	1.560	1.530	1,000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1,000
United Middle East and Comodoro Hotels	91000	60106	0.650	0.620	1,000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	3700	9538	2.600	2.560	1,000
Jordan Press Foundation	237	830	3.610	3.500	1,000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Dairy	5759	8633	1.500	1.490	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	29414	121549	4.120	4.100	1,000
Jordan Medical Corporation	2373	2296	0.970	0.950	1,000
International Pharmaceutical Industries	35716	104516	3.040	2.930	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	10591	48728	4.600	4.600	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	3179	6960	2.190	2.170	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	1150	9633	8.500	8.550	1,000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	45275	70178	1.680	1.660	1,000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Aladdin Industries	6700	19175	3.000	2.640	1,000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	17525	50547	2.990	2.850	1,000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	450	2565	5.700	5.700	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	70698	196549	2.780	2.850	1,000
Chemical Industries	1690	6270	2.790	2.820	1,000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	1250	2105	1.680	1.670	1,000
Dar Al Awwa' for Development and Investment	3999	17594	4.400	4.400	1,000
National Steel Industries	500	1250	2.480	2.500	1,000
Universal Chemical Industries	5508	32715	5.900	5.800	1,000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4470	36345	8.090	8.150	1,000
Jordan Lime & Brick	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Industries	21800	24888	1.140	1.120	1,000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Investment and International Trade	464838	399586	0.790	0.800	1,000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	100	330	3.400	3.300	1,000
Livestock and Poultry	22790	24419	1.030	1.050	1,000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	9000	279000	3.100	3.100	1,000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	50	465	8.910	9.300	1,000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	122647	425649	3.450	3.010	1,000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1,000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1,000
Woolen Industries	1900	2791	1.600	1.420	1,000
Jordan Tanning	4342	10700	2.480	2.450	1,000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1,000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	18250	36200	1.980	1.900	1,000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	43363	183761	4.740	3.980	1,000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	12845	12845	2.480	2.540	1,000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	22221	61520	2.800	2.700	1,000
Jordan Cement Factories	34203	36799	1.070	1.070	1,000
Jordan Glass Industries	67800	79493	1.160	1.130	1,000
Jordan Precast Concrete Industry	108210	59161	0.560	0.530	1,000
National Quarry	14700	18825	1.350	1.190	1,000
Arab Potash	—	—	—	—	1,000

Grand total 1,973,624 3,281,332

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 25, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: All kinds of chances are present today for you to see more clearly your own duties and obligations in a very unusual and different light and to settle on a course of action.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Don't try to settle any discussions but make a point to maintain a pace of your own that does not get in anyone else's way and keep smiling.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You are thinking about ways to have a greater amount of worldly success and if you increase your vision you can do so with ease now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Make a special point early to accept opportunity to cheer one who is having a difficult time, then you can make this person feel pleasant.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Inspired ideas for being able to do whatever your interests in a much more efficient and productive manner is now very possible.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Your creative skills and aptitudes are at a new high today and you would be wise to spend as much time as possible extending their scope.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) You should have the right approach instinctively to get a member of your family to go along with a new course of action that means much to you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) There are things you can now

do at your dwelling that will very greatly increase the harmony there, after which stay at home tonight and enjoy them.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Communicate your desire for some special entertainment with those close companions you want to go along with you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Now is the day at last for you to focus your time and energies upon conditions at your own home and do what your family desires of you.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) You find the right word, sentence and phrase to communicate your goals with usual companions so get out in the world for your best results.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) Fix up your property so that it is more valuable or at least has an improvement in appearance with more beauty for all that observes.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) A highly personal day for you when you can let others know just what you have in mind and get fine support from them.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will only respect a job well done and will have no interest in wishful thinking and plans which do not include a workable expression of the same. This chart is excellent for laboratory or research work. An interest in music and the arts will need to be nourished.

THE Daily Crossword by Alvin L. Becker

ACROSS

- 1 Paid player
- 2 Moved easily
- 3 Type of poem
- 4 Above to
-



Agassi getting ready to play tennis in the rain

Agassi, Edberg to meet in Players' Championship final

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) — Third-seeded Stefan Edberg overpowered Emilio Sanchez 6-1 and faces American fifth seed Andre Agassi in Sunday's final of the \$2.55 million International Players' Championship.

Spaniard Sanchez, seeded 15, eliminated top seed Ivan Lendl in the fourth round but he failed to put pressure on his Swedish semi-final opponent despite being a break up in the second set.

Agassi dropped the first set but roared back to overwhelm seventh-seeded compatriot Jay Berger 5-7.

It will be Agassi's third final of

the year. He won in San Francisco in February and lost to Edberg two weeks ago in the final at Indian Wells.

Agassi and Berger battled from the baseline during the first set, with Berger counter-punching and Agassi hitting the more aggressive winners.

Agassi led 3-2 when Berger, seeded 7th, dropped serve on a forehand error. Agassi then fought off five break points before holding for 5-2, but lost five consecutive games after that as Berger blazed winners and took the set 7-5 on an ace.

The momentum switched to Agassi's side of the court in the second set as he capitalised on Berger's frequent errors to take the set easily, with a lob.

Berger squandered opportunities at the start of the third set after holding for 1-0. Berger missed four break point opportunities to take a 2-0 lead and instead Agassi held and broke Berger for 2-1 in the next game.

Berger had his chances again with a break point against Agassi at 2-1. But Agassi saved it with a backhand winner and aged his way to 3-1.

Moroccan, American win world running titles

AIX-LES-BAINS, France (Agencies) — Khalid Skah of Morocco trumped the Kenyan aces of cross country running to win the world title Saturday.

He attacked a Kenyan pack of front-runners on the last bend of the 12.2-kilometre course and held on in a close final sprint to give his country its first win in the event for more than 20 years.

Moses Tanui finished second in the same time of 34 minutes 21 seconds with Julius Korir, another Kenyan, third one second behind.

Four Kenyans finished in the top six, but John Ngugi, winner for the past four years and aiming for a record fifth title, was not among them.

He took the lead briefly after 10 minutes and delighted the crowd by clearly clearing a hedge hurdler-style as the others stepped on it in more conventional fashion.

But Ngugi, who started training for the race only two weeks ago after resting for a month after the commonwealth games, ran out of steam soon afterwards and dropped out of contention.

The women's 6-kilometre race was won by American Lynn Jennings who went away on her own carlay on to finish 12 seconds ahead of Portugal's Albertina Dias. Elena Romanova of the Soviet Union was third.

It was a first win for Jennings, who had placed in the first six at the last four world championships.

Jager beats Biondi; both set U.S. records

NASHVILLE (R) — U.S. Olympians Tom Jager and Matt Biondi broke the American record in the 50-yard freestyle at the U.S. swimming short course nationals Friday.

Jager, 24, trailing after the turn, made up ground in the final 25 yards to win the event in 19.05 seconds.

The previous American short course record was 19.15 set by Biondi, April 2, last year.

"I was so psyched when I heard the crowd stomping and getting into it, it was crazy," Jager said. "I never felt out of the race."

Jager, who was third in the morning preliminaries, is the world record holder in the 50-metre freestyle in 22.12, set at the 1989 Pan Pacific Championships in Tokyo. Jager holds an 11-6 advantage over Biondi in their head-to-head competition since

1984. Biondi, winner of seven medals at the 1988 Olympic games in Seoul, including five gold medals, one silver and one bronze, was second in 19.12.

"I never saw Tom," Biondi said. "I said six months ago whoever won tonight would break the record. Tom is just a great racer. I'm satisfied I swam a lifetime best, but disappointed I lost the record. I don't feel like I faded, I thought I was with him for the whole race. I think he just got an arm on me."

Hungary's Tamas Darnyi, Olympic gold medalist in the 200- and 400-metre individual medley and world record holder in the 400 individual medley was disqualified in the 200-yard race for using the butterfly kick going into the turn on the breaststroke.

Balestre gives go ahead to Brazilian Grand Prix

PARIS (AP) — The president of Auto racing's international governing body ruled Thursday that the Brazilian Grand Prix can take place as scheduled in Sao Paulo Sunday, despite concerns about track safety and economic conditions.

Jean-Marie Balestre, president of the International Federation of Auto Sports, or FISA, said he had signed a safety certificate allowing the season's second formula one race to go ahead.

But Balestre said he was worried about the economic situation that led newly-elected Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello to introduce tough austerity measures last week.

Expressing displeasure at not having been notified of Brazil's economic problems, Balestre noted that other international sporting events have been moved out of the country over the past two years.

Balestre said in a press release prior to Thursday's news conference that there were "serious threats" to the Grand Prix from economic troubles, track safety and bad weather.

During the conference, Balestre called his secretary general, Yves Leon, on a black cordless telephone for an update on track security after the first time trials were run.

Asian Games organisers commended

KUWAIT (AP) — The president of the Kuwait-based Olympic Council of Asia Saturday commended China's arrangements for staging the 11th Asian games Sept. 22-Oct. 7.

Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah, who visited Beijing earlier this month at the head of an OCA delegation, also called for wide-scale participation by member states.

China's hosting of the games had been thrown into doubt following last June's violent crackdown on the pro-democracy movement primarily because of concern about the government's ability to maintain order and

organise the event. The council's statement said that in Beijing, Fahd reviewed preparations for the games with Chinese officials and "thoroughly investigated" the newly completed facilities.

"Sheikh Fahd expressed total satisfaction with what he has seen and stated that preparations for the games are proceeding on schedule and are of an excellent nature," the statement said.

"Sheikh Fahd said he is more than ever confident that the Asian games will reflected the strong will of the Asian Olympic family as well as its solidarity with

N.Y. Yankees' owners under investigation

NEW YORK (AP) — A \$40,000 payment from New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner to an admitted gambler is under investigation by major League Baseball, commissioner Fay Vincent said Saturday.

"What I've said is that I am looking into those reports, gathering information, Vincent said in Sarasota, Florida. "But beyond that, I don't have anything to comment on."

Vincent made his comments as the gambler, Howie Spira, awaited arraignment at a Manhattan courthouse on charges he tried to extort money from Steinbrenner.

On Friday, a Tampa, Florida, grand jury indicted him on the extortion charge.

Spira has said Steinbrenner paid him \$40,000 to collect damaging information on outfielder Dave Winfield finances that Steinbrenner could use in a legal battle with the star player.

But Steinbrenner, who admitted making a payment Jan. 8 to

Spira, says that money was to help Spira straighten out his life.

Steinbrenner denied it was a payoff for information from Spira, who worked in a public relations capacity for the David M. Winfield Foundation.

In recent interviews and in letters seized by authorities, Spira claimed Steinbrenner still owes him \$150,000, a \$50,000-a-year job working for him at American Shipbuilding Co. in Tampa and free lodging at the Steinbrenner-owned Bay Harbor inn. All of it was for providing a service.

"What a service; to bring down your superstar ballplayer," Spira wrote to Steinbrenner in one letter produced by the FBI.

"I would imagine I'd be offered a very large sum of money to write an article for a national publication. ... re: the Winfield situation, the investigation, and most importantly you."

Winfield sued Steinbrenner last year over contributions the owner was to make to the Winfield

Foundation, and Steinbrenner responded with a countersuit alleging Winfield misappropriated funds. They later settled their dispute out of court.

The eight-count indictment filed in U.S. district court in Tampa charges Spira with criminal misuse of interstate communication to extort and threaten.

Specifically, it alleges Spira sent letters threatening both Steinbrenner and Winfield with bodily injury. In one, Spira said the stress of the alleged unkept promises were making his mother ill.

"I swear if anything happens to my mother, George and Dave better both hire a lot of security because then I will really be out of control," Spira wrote in a letter produced by the FBI.

"That's the sort of threat were talking about," U.S. attorney Robert W. Genzman said. "We certainly take these kinds of threats seriously from a law enforcement standpoint."

Timman takes time out from game with Karpov

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Jan Timman of the Netherlands took time-out from the ninth game of the world candidates chess final against Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union Saturday.

The game will take place on Monday with Timman, who has now called for his second and last time out in the 12-game match, playing white.

Each player is allowed two time-outs and Karpov has used one.

Karpov beat Timman in 38 moves in the eighth game Friday and currently leads by 5.5 points to 2.5. The winner is the first to reach 6.5 points.

Karpov is one win away from another chance to take the title from world champion Gary Kasparov, also of the Soviet Union.



Anatoly Karpov

Senna claims provisional pole in Sao Paulo

SAO PAULO (R) — Ayrton Senna claimed provisional pole position for Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix with another blistering demonstration of his special driving skills during Friday's opening qualifying session on his home town circuit.

The Brazilian clocked a fastest time of one minute 17.769 seconds midway through a session run in welcome dry conditions after several days of heavy rain.

His McLaren team mate Gerhard Berger of Austria was second quickest in 1:17.888 and shares the front row of the provisional grid with Senna, winner of the season-opening Phoenix race two weeks ago.

The Williams pair of Belgian Thierry Boutsen and Italian Riccardo Patrese were third and fourth fastest ahead of the two Ferraris of Briton Nigel Mansell and Frenchman Alain Prost, both of whom complained that their goodyear qualifying tyres were not working well.

For most of the formula one fraternity, having endured downpours, ramshackle conditions at the circuit where the pits and paddock are less than half-completed and all the problems which go with an economy in the grip of rampant inflation, it was a familiar and welcome sight to see the expected three leading teams at the head of proceedings.

None of the teams using the Pirelli tyres which were so successful for the Tyrrell, Minardi and Dallara teams in Phoenix, were able to make a serious impression.

Italian Pierluigi Martini, in a Minardi, was seventh fastest ahead of fellow-Italian Andrea de Cesaris in a Dallara.

Jean Alesi, the Frenchman who finished second in the United States Grand Prix, was ninth fastest in his Tyrrell.

Senna said afterwards that he felt he would need to improve his time Saturday if he was to hold on to pole, and also complained of pain from his neck.

He said: "I didn't drive my very best and the car felt a little light. I went wide on a couple of corners and also caught a Brabham slightly on one corner — so I know I can improve."

"Also, I need a strap put on my helmet tomorrow to help support it on the side of the cockpit."

"I have a slight problem on one side of my neck and when I hit a bump through a long corner, I felt a crack and a pain in my neck. But everything should be okay for Sunday and the race."

Berger said he had too much understeer on his second fast run with his second set of qualifiers and effectively lost the last two corners.

Astrology and Numerology Combined

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH

PENNY WISE, POUND FOOLISH

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 7 2
♥ 6
♦ A K J 10 8 4
♣ K 9 3

EAST
♠ 8 4
♥ K 10 9
♦ K Q 10 9 5 3 2
♣ 9 6 2

SOUTH
♠ A J 6 5 3
♥ A J
♦ Q 5
♣ 7 6 4 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1♠ Pass 1♠ 3♥
3♠ 4♥ 4♠ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠
Preservation of your assets is commendable; only yesterday we lauded it as a virtue. But you can carry a good thing to excess, as this hand proves.

We want to congratulate East on his clever lead-directing bid of four

clubs. He was prepared to retreat to four hearts anyway, so there was no harm in route in showing where his strength lay.

Against four spades West led the jack of clubs. East signalled encouragement with the eight of clubs, and West would dearly have liked to oblige. Since that was not possible, the defender shifted to the king of hearts. Declarer won, ruffed a heart in dummy, took the spade finesse and eventually lost a spade and a club trick in addition to the club trick he had already surrendered.

What a pity that East nullified his fine bidding with slipshod defense. West's lead of the jack of clubs was most likely a doubleton, but East could have protected against the possibility that it was singleton. All that was needed was for East to overtake the jack of clubs with the queen and cash the ace. Whether or not West followed was immaterial. East would simply continue with a third club and West's ruff would seal the contract's fate. The defenders would already have three tricks in the bank, and East was looking at a sure trump trick for the setting trick.

Rainey leads Japanese Grand Prix

SUZUKA, Japan (R) — Wayne Rainey headed fellow American Kevin Schwantz in Saturday's final practice for Sunday's season-opening Japanese 500 cc motorcycle Grand Prix.

Yamaha rider Rainey, runner-up to Schwantz last year, clocked the fastest time of two minutes 09.589 seconds, inside the track record.

"Everything is going well," reported Rainey, second in last year's world championship behind fellow Californian Eddie Lawson.

Schwantz had to settle for 2:10.329 on his Suzuki as rain prevented riders from improving their times in the final session. The Texan qualified fastest nine times in the 15-round series last season.

Rainey's early form increases the pressure on Yamaha rider Lawson and Schwantz, who is bidding for his third successive win at his favourite Suzuka circuit.

Former world champion Wayne Gardner of Australia, forced to miss five races after breaking his left leg in the U.S. Grand Prix last April, took his Honda to third place in 2:10.446.

Lawson was fourth in 2:10.525 and Australian Michael Doohan, fifth with 2:11.167 on his Honda. American John Cocinski headed 250 cc practice with 2:14.273.

AIX LES BAINS, FRANCE (AP) — Leading track officials from Africa and the International Amateur Athletic Federation met Saturday to discuss changes in South Africa.

It will perhaps clear the way for athletes to compete from that country in international competition.

At the World cross country championships, Primo Nebiolo, president of the IAAF, the three African members of the IAAF

council — Lamine Diack of Senegal, Hassan Agabani of Sudan and Charles Mukora of Kenya — conferred with Fekrou Kidane of Ethiopia, the chairman of the International Campaign against Apartheid.

They agreed that significant changes have been made in South Africa and opened room for further discussion.

Another meeting will be in Dakar, Senegal, in June.

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

Dustin Hoffman
Tom Cruise
in
RAIN MAN

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

OVER BOARD

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

DESTROYER

Performances: 3:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

John Travolta
Olivia Newton-John
GREASE is the word

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238

PLAZA

BEETLEJUICE

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Contras agree to disband

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — Nicaragua's contra rebels have agreed to a plan to disband, removing a major obstacle to the peaceful transfer of power from the left-wing Sandinistas to a newly-elected, U.S.-backed government.

Under the agreement, which was immediately hailed by outgoing Sandinista President Daniel Ortega in Managua, an estimated 6,000 contras in Honduras would begin disarming immediately.

Another 6,000 inside Nicaragua, whom the Sandinistas have accused of increasing their attacks recently, would agree to a ceasefire and regroup in internationally supervised security zones, handing over their arms at a later date.

"The demobilisation process begins today with the disarming of the force that still remains here in Honduras," said Antonio Lacayo, who represented the incoming government of Violeta Chamorro at talks on the eight-year-old insurgency.

The plan, signed by Lacayo, who is Chamorro's son-in-law, contra commander Oscar Solabarrio and Roman Catholic Church leader and peace negotiator Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, Friday also called for spe-

cial internationally supervised zones for armed contras inside Nicaragua.

Ortega said Friday he fully supported the agreement to begin disbanding the U.S.-backed contra rebels.

"As president of Nicaragua I fully support this accord. I believe it goes in the direction of achieving peace and eliminating the war that has caused so much suffering, so much harm to the Nicaraguan people," he told reporters at Managua airport where he met representatives of the church and the new government.

No Sandinista officials attended Friday's talks. Under the plan, the contras still remaining in camps inside Honduras would be disarmed under the supervision of the United Nations and the Organisation of American States peacekeeping forces by April 20, five days before Chamorro takes office.

To resolve the problem of the contras inside Nicaragua, the

agreement calls for a ceasefire to be verified by Obando Y Bravo and the U.N. and OAS peacekeeping groups.

Contra leaders said the rebels would remain in the zones until the internal situation in Nicaragua allowed them to turn over their weapons and return to civilian life.

In a statement that seemed likely to anger Sandinista supporters, the plan said the Chamorro government would provide humanitarian aid for the contras in "recognition of the patriotic work of the Nicaraguan resistance."

With U.S. backing, the contras fought an eight-year war to oust the Sandinistas, who took power after the 1979 revolution. About 30,000 people died in the civil strife.

The Sandinistas labelled the rebels U.S. mercenaries and continue to equate them with the hated National Guard of ousted Dictator Anastasio Somoza. The contras viewed their fight as key to the Chamorro victory over Ortega in the Feb. 25 elections.

The agreement was also praised by the Honduran government and the U.S. embassy in Tegucigalpa.

Hungary pauses for breath before free elections

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary catches its breath for a day of campaign-free reflection Saturday before sealing its return to Western-style democracy with the country's first free national elections since 1945.

For more than four decades, except for a sprinkling of by-elections since last summer and a few days before the 1956 uprising was quashed by Soviet tanks, Hungarian voters have had the choice of only one political party.

Now, after Hungary formally abandoned one-party Communist rule last October by declaring itself a republic instead of a Communist "People's republic," 27 parties will compete in Sunday's election for the 386 seats in Hungary's one-chamber parliament.

"These elections will be unique in a sense," interim head of state Matyas Szuros said in a television address to the nation Friday evening. "This will be perhaps our first genuine opportunity to decide, vote and choose freely."

Opinion polls among Hungary's 7.8 million electors indicate there could be a close result Sunday — when only around half the parliamentary seats are expected to be decided — and in a run-off round provisionally slated for April 8.

Most surveys indicate front-runners by a fraction are the Alliance of Free Democrats, a party founded by one-time dissidents which has a platform mixing U.S.-style liberalism and West European social democracy.

Almost neck-and-neck has been the centre-right Hungarian Democratic Forum, which may have a better chance than the Alliance of heading the next government because it has more cordial links with some smaller parties.

A survey released Friday by the independent polling organisation Median gave the alliance 21.4 per cent of public support, just half a percentage point ahead of the Forum.

In third place with 15.4 per cent was the likely "king-maker," the rural Independent Smallholders' Party which polled 57 per cent in Hungary's last free national elections in 1945.

Thatcher seeks to rally party after crushing by-election defeat

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher defiantly insists she will not back down from her unpopular economic policies despite a crushing defeat by the opposition Labour Party in a key parliamentary by-election.

Thatcher's Conservative Party was plunged into crisis Friday after Labour turned in its best by-election performance for more than half a century to win the central English constituency of Mid-Staffordshire.

Labour won the seat with a 21 per cent swing away from the Conservatives — an almost exact reversal of the result in the constituency in the 1987 general election.

Labour seized on the government's humiliating defeat in a traditional stronghold as evidence that cracks were beginning to show in Thatcher's 11-year domination of British political life.

Thatcher herself said voters had sent the government a message about the impact of high interest rates and the govern-

ment's new community charge or "poll tax" to fund local services. Britain has been shocked in recent weeks by a series of violent demonstrations against the poll tax in which protesters have clashed with police.

"These matters are naturally of concern to us all," she said in a letter to Conservative Party Chairman Kenneth Baker.

But she added: "We are not a fair-weather party. We are not for trimming and turning." "We believe in long-term policies of the kind we have implemented so successfully over the last 11 years."

The by-election defeat raised renewed speculation about Thatcher's continued leadership of the Conservatives.

In recent days she has brushed aside rumours of a party plot to topple her and vowed to fight "every inch of the way" to win a fourth successive general election victory.

Opinion polls have shown the government is losing support because of public concern over interest rates and the poll tax.

A national survey taken for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Thursday gave Labour a 21-point lead over the government — the Conservatives' worst rating since the last general election.

Conservative cabinet ministers were mobilised Friday to press home the message that the government's difficulties were only temporary.

"We shall get out of it by clear thought and steady action, and under the leadership of the prime minister," Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said.

Conservative spokesmen said the Mid-Staffordshire voters had taken the opportunity to register a protest and would return to the fold in time for the next general election. Thatcher does not have to call this until mid-1992.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock, while accepting that one by-election victory had to be treated with some caution as a pointer to his party's national fortunes, brushed aside the protest vote theory.

"You show me an election anywhere in the world where protest doesn't play a part," he said.

Last Indian troops leave Sri Lanka

TRINCOMALEE, Sri Lanka (AP) — The last Indian peacekeeping soldiers withdrew from Sri Lanka Saturday after 30 months of a stalemate jungle war against Tamil guerrillas fighting for an independent nation.

About 2,000 soldiers of the Sikh light infantry and the Rajput, Gurkha and Para regiments boarded the Indian troop carrier Magar with a ceremonial farewell from Sri Lankan forces.

The Magar, whose name means crocodile, sailed from the eastern port city of Trincomalee at 9:45 a.m. (M415 GMT) and is scheduled to reach Madras in southern India Sunday.

"You have made a great sacrifice, there is no doubt about that," Sri Lankan Defence Minister Ranjana Wijeratne told the troops wearing camouflage uniforms.

A Sri Lankan naval band played Auld Lang Syne, a Scottish song promising to renew friendship, and Sri Lankan soldiers unsheathed swords in a guard of honour for the departing Indians.

High Commissioner Kakah Lal Mehrotra, India's top diplomat in

Sri Lanka, said in a speech before the departure: "It is our fond hope that the Indian peacekeeping force's legacy of peace will last and the crimson of the morning sun that... bids them goodbye will cover the land in abiding glory for time to come."

At least 1,155 Indian soldiers died fighting guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest rebel group battling the ethnic Sinhalese majority to create an independent Tamil nation.

The Indian troops arrived in northern and eastern Sri Lanka in July 1987 under an Indian-brokered peace accord between the country's government and the Tamil rebels. Their mission was to disarm the Tamil Tigers and several other Tamil separatist groups.

While most groups surrendered their weapons, the Tamil Tigers reneged on the accord in October 1987 and turned their guns on the Indian soldiers who had once trained them. The Tigers claimed the provisions of the accord, which promised limited autonomy, did not meet their aspirations for their own

nation. As the jungle war continued, India sent in more reinforcements. At one point about 125,000 soldiers patrolled the northeastern part of this Indian Ocean nation, once a popular tourist resort before it was rent by civil war.

Last summer, the new government of president Ranasinghe Premadasa reached an agreement with the Tigers and asked India to pull out its troops by July 29, 1987, the second anniversary of the peace accord.

At that time, Indian forces controlled most of the larger towns in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, but the Tamil Tigers ran an effective underground movement from the dense jungles and swamps.

New Delhi stalled on the withdrawal request for about six months, leading to a diplomatic deadlock and war of words between officials of the two countries.

Last January, after the new Indian government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh took office, India and Sri Lanka agreed on a March 31 deadline.

Stalin-era mass grave found in Germany

EAST BERLIN (R) — An East German historian has uncovered a secret mass grave where thousands of victims of Stalin's security police were buried at the end of World War II, the Berliner Zeitung reported Saturday.

Excavations at a wood near the northern town of Neubrandenburg have revealed layer upon layer of skeletons, including children as young as 12, who perished in the nearby Stalinist internment camp of Foenfichen as the Red Army advanced on

Berlin in 1945. "Stalinist terror as practised here was no different from what the Nazis did. It hit the guilty and innocent alike," said historian Dieter Krueger. "This wood is a wood of death."

Krueger said the grave had remained secret until now because local workers were intimidated into silence and all documentary evidence was locked away in the Soviet Union. The first signs of the skeletons,

some buried just below the surface of the sandy soil, were reported by two locals earlier this month. "Foresters and farmers always knew something. Up to now they have kept silent," the newspaper said.

The Soviets set up 11 internment camps on German soil at the end of the war, many of them on the site of Nazi death camps, Krueger said. Western historians estimate 65,000 people died in them.

Hints of separatism surface in China

PEKING (AP) — Leaflets calling for an end to Chinese rule have appeared in China's westernmost region, an official from the area said Saturday, in the latest sign of unrest in the Xinjiang autonomous region.

Amudun Niyazi, chairman of the Xinjiang People's Congress standing committee, said handbills, leaflets and other materials "instigating separatist activities" had been discovered circulating in the region.

Niyazi said there had been no ethnic violence in Xinjiang, which is home to 25 different minority groups making up nearly

two-thirds of the population. But the past few months news reports from Xinjiang have hinted of trouble. Editorials and commentaries stressing the need for unity and stability and denouncing "separatist" activities have increased markedly.

In January, the region's armed police were ordered to intensify anti-riot training and intelligence work to prevent unrest.

Among the largest groups in Xinjiang are the Muslim Uygur and Kazakh minorities, Central Asian ethnic groups with close ties to people living across the border in the Soviet Union.

Xinjiang's delegates to the National People's Congress, holding its annual session in Peking this week, were quoted by the Xinjiang Daily earlier this month as saying the region has "a small number of separatists, who present the greatest threat to Xinjiang's stability."

The delegates called the separatists "the scum of the Chinese people" and said they were acting under the guise of advocating religious freedom and democracy.

"We must be on the alert," the delegates were quoted as saying.

Peru declares state of emergency; bomb kills 1

LIMA (R) — Suspected leftist guerrillas exploded a car bomb in front of Peru's Economic Ministry in Lima killing a passer-by and wounding 25 other people, police said.

Earlier Friday, suspected rebels shot dead a candidate for next month's congressional elections and a state of emergency was declared in the capital.

The car, filled with dynamite, exploded at a busy intersection in central Lima, breaking windows in nearby buildings, a police spokesman said.

Eight of the wounded were

seriously hurt, he said.

Neither of Peru's two major leftist guerrilla groups immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, although car bombs have been a tactic of the pro-Cuban Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement.

Police set up roadblocks throughout Lima after the murder of the candidate for the centre-right Democratic Front Coalition by suspected Maoist Shining Path guerrillas.

More than 300 people were detained by police in anti-guerrilla operations and large

numbers of officers armed with sub-machineguns patrolled the city centre.

Four gunmen riddled Jose Galvez Fernandez with bullets as he left his home in the city's working-class Comas district. He died as a neighbour rushed him to hospital.

President Alan Garcia's government later declared a 30-day state of emergency in Lima and its suburbs and ordered police to remain in their barracks, suggesting police were planning more anti-guerrilla sweeps.

Galvez was the fifth candidate

for public office killed in the past two weeks.

"These... are crimes of deliberate terrorism, which is seeking to disrupt the normal development of the electoral process," said a statement issued by the Interior Ministry.

Shining Path guerrillas issued a statement after Galvez was killed, saying unless all candidates quit the campaign "we will annihilate them implacably."

Under the state of emergency, most civil liberties are suspended and people must carry identity documents.

Castro scoffs at Bush offer of aid to Cuba

HAVANA (R) — Cuban President Fidel Castro has scoffed at U.S. President George Bush's offer to give aid to a democratically-elected government in Cuba.

"More crumbs," Castro said at a televised news conference in reply to a question about Bush's offer.

Bush told reporters in Washington earlier that the United States would happily provide aid to Cuba after free and fair elections were held there.

Castro said he understood Bush had said he was disappointed about his attitude in resisting pressure to change Cuba's one-party Communist system.

"So Bush is disappointed with Castro... where does Bush get his illusions from about Cuba?... He seems to be more disappointed than a spiteful girlfriend," the Cuba leader said.

The news conference with Cuban journalists was carried on state radio and television. Cuban officials said it was also beamed towards the United States.

Castro turned down more gently suggestions made to him last week by the presidents of Spain and Venezuela that he should abandon his resistance and agree to political concessions.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez made the approach when the three met in Brazil after attending the inauguration of President Fernando Collor de Mello.

"I don't agree with them," the

Cuban leader said. "All those who have made concessions to survive have not survived," he added.

"The only path of survival for the revolution is resistance... I am deeply convinced of that," Castro said.

Bush said I don't believe there would be any resistance from any quarter to helping the people of Cuba once they had the right to express themselves in free and fair elections.

Expressing doubt his appeal would be heeded, Bush called on Castro to move towards free and fair elections and improve his country's human rights record.

"Clearly the United States would rejoice at being able to help a democratically elected government in Cuba," he said in response to a reporter's question.

The United States has portrayed Castro in recent weeks as increasingly isolated by the movement to democracy sweeping the hemisphere.

During a Latin American goodwill tour last week, Vice President Dan Quayle predicted that this "revolution of democracy" would eventually reach Cuba — a point Bush echoed Friday.

"I am convinced that the people of Cuba want the same thing that the people of Nicaragua demonstrated that they wanted, the rest of the countries in the hemisphere have demonstrated that they want: Democracy and freedom," he said.

In an apparent reference to a

controversial U.S. plan to beam news and information into Cuba on a government-sponsored operation called Television Marti, Bush said "We're going to continue to try to bring the truth to Cuba, just as we did to Czechoslovakia and Poland and other countries."

TV Marti could backfire

Experts said Friday Cuba has the capacity to disrupt radio broadcasts in more than half the United States if the two countries go to electronic war over TV Marti.

TV Marti, a U.S. government station set up to beam television to Cuba, is due to begin transmissions soon despite Cuban protests and warnings of retaliation to what Castro's administration sees as electronic aggression.

The prospect of a war of the airwaves is causing concern among commercial radio stations in the United States who could lose millions of dollars in advertising if their transmissions were disrupted.

"We believe they (the Cubans) can disrupt AM broadcasts in 30 states, all the way up to the northeast of the country and all the way west to Utah," said Susan Kraus of the National Association of Broadcasters, which represents 5,200 radio and 950 TV stations.

The Cuban Armed Forces chief of staff, General Ulyses Rosales del Toro, said Wednesday that special electronic warfare units could not only jam incoming TV Marti but disrupt broadcasting,

communications and electronic defence systems deep inside the United States.

According to Kraus, the Cubans have transmitters that dwarf anything used in the United States. "One transmitter has a capacity of approximately a million watts and there are a couple of others of 500,000 watts. In the United States, the maximum... is 50,000 watts."

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	03	07	45 Cloudy
ATHENS	08	08	27 Clear
BAHRAIN	20	26	79 Cloudy
BANGKOK	26	28	79 Cloudy
Buenos Aires	21	20	68 Clear
Cairo	12	24	54 Clear
CHICAGO	05	23	38 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	06	10	50 Cloudy
Frankfurt	02	08	46 Cloudy
Geneva	10	02	22 Clear
HONG KONG	22	22	72 Cloudy
STANBUL	05	01	33 Clear
LONDON	10	10	55 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	14	23	57 Cloudy
MADRID	11	22	54 Rain
MECCA	21	70	80 Cloudy
MONTREAL	00	32	30 Cloudy
MOSCOW	05	10	50 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	19	28	78 Clear
NEW YORK	08	21	68 Cloudy
PARIS	05	11	57 Cloudy
ROME	07	15	59 Cloudy
SYDNEY	18	24	77 Clear
TOKYO	11	22	70 Clear
VIENNA	04	14	57 Clear

M - indicates missing information.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Eftemson

"THE BEST IS YET TO BE"
By S.E. Willkerson

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Language abbr. | 10 Pipe cleaner | 11 Naked | 1 Ingot |
| 2 Money abbr. | 11 Purpose | 12 A girl | 2 Attention |
| 3 Get ready to play | 12 Laborer | 13 In front | 3 Change the |
| 4 Slender e.g. | 13 Boards | 14 Father in Eng. | 4 Offer |
| 5 Eye area | 14 Take in a way | 15 Mao — lung | 5 Act of |
| 6 Shanty | 15 Mao — lung | 16 Special attire | 6 Prohibiting |
| 7 Released | 16 Special attire | 17 Ram part | 7 Anybody |
| 8 Eye area | 17 Ram part | 18 Fact of action | 8 Judging |
| 9 Boy under | 18 Fact of action | 19 Equipment | 9 Judge |
| 10 Pipe cleaner | 19 Equipment | 20 Hibernia | 10 Actress Black |

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 26 Rel. g. | 37 Mr. Roccini | 68 — is full of |
| 27 Teen chaser | 38 Mr. Roccini | 69 (Shakespeare) |
| 28 European | 39 Band on a record | 70 Blow up |
| 29 Chastity | 40 Palmer Heart | 71 Notable period |
| 30 Fast tittle | 41 Carroll or Donald | 72 Belvoir |
| 31 Russia, writer Ivan | 42 Mentalist Geller | 73 Father Juan |
| 32 Nest maker | 43 Measure up to | 74 Wooden strip |
| 33 Pipe cleaner | 44 Trumpets | 75 Cry of surprise |
| 34 Clad | 45 Chins of tennis | 76 Remise of old |
| 35 Pipe cleaner | 46 Chins of tennis | 77 Earthware |
| 36 Pipe cleaner | 47 Chins of tennis | 78 Empty |
| 37 Mr. Roccini | 48 Chins of tennis | 79 Empty |
| 38 Mr. Roccini | 49 Chins of tennis | 80 Empty |
| 39 Band on a record | 50 Chins of tennis | 81 Empty |
| 40 Palmer Heart | 51 Chins of tennis | 82 Empty |
| 41 Carroll or Donald | 52 Chins of tennis | 83 Empty |
| 42 Mentalist Geller | 53 Chins of tennis | 84 Empty |
| 43 Measure up to | 54 Chins of tennis | 85 Empty |
| 44 Trumpets | 55 Chins of tennis | 86 Empty |
| 45 Chins of tennis | 56 Chins of tennis | 87 Empty |
| 46 Chins of tennis | 57 Chins of tennis | 88 Empty |
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| 77 Chins of tennis | | |